

Tories set long campaign trap for Kinnock

● The Tories may opt for an extended election campaign in the hope that Mr Neil Kinnock will crack and Alliance rifts will broaden

● Sir Geoffrey Howe, attacking the Alliance, calls it a recipe for weak government and says a hung Parliament would be a dangerous farce

● Conservative women call for tax concessions aimed at strengthening family life, focusing demands on reforms to aid working mothers

● "Merger mania" leads Dr David Owen to urge reforms of the monopolies commission. Mr Edward Heath urges statutory regulation of the City Page 2

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Conservative election strategists are considering plans to make the next campaign a long-drawn-out affair, well over the standard three weeks, in the expectation that they can force Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, to crack.

Private polls have indicated that the mid-term reaction against Mrs Margaret Thatcher has moderated and that as the election atmosphere develops the Prime Minister's qualities of leadership are being recalled, to the detriment of Mr Kinnock. His personal ratings have slipped recently.

Pointing out that Mr Kinnock's voice did not last through the last election campaign, and that he allowed himself to be harried into unwise remarks about the Falklands campaign, Conservative planners doubt his physical and mental stamina.

They believe that in a long campaign he will be trapped into errors, which would

emphasize what they regard as his lack of prime ministerial calibre.

The Conservative campaign will stress Mr Kinnock's lack of ministerial experience and contrast it frequently with Mrs Thatcher's record as an experienced minister.

The Prime Minister's visit to Moscow at the end of March is seen as a key card in that strategy.

Conservative planners also expect that if Labour is slipping in the polls during the campaign—and Labour has

not increased its vote during any one of the past seven election campaigns—then a number of Labour figures may start fighting the intra-party battles.

The battles are bound to follow another electoral defeat even before the campaign is over.

A secondary target in a long campaign is Mr David Steel, the Liberal Leader.

Tory planners point to his period of black despair and weeks of inaction after the last election campaign failed to provide the Alliance with the breakthrough it had sought.

They believe that Mr Steel can be harried into mistakes during a long campaign, which is inevitably more punishing for the Alliance leaders who have to cover more ground than the other two main party leaders.

They also believe that a long campaign will give them a better chance of opening up policy differences between the Liberals and the Social Democrats.

The Conservatives have for the moment dropped plans to appoint a new director of communications. Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, is to perform that role largely himself.

Conservative Central Office is not pressing the Prime Minister at this stage for an early election.

The publication in *The Observer* of a Harris Poll of 1,093 electors, conducted from Tuesday to Thursday last week, which showed the Conservatives back at their 1983 poll figure for the first time, with 44 per cent to Labour's 36 per cent, and the Alliance on 18 per cent, has not set off any surge of enthusiasm for a spring election.

In fact there is a growing feeling in Central Office that it might be worth waiting for the solid evidence of the polling booths in the local elections in May.

The figures in yesterday's Harris poll, on a uniform swing throughout the country, would produce a House of Commons in which the Conservatives had 351 seats, Labour 265, the Alliance a mere 11 and Others, including the 17 Ulster seats, 23, giving Mrs Thatcher a comfortable overall majority of 50.

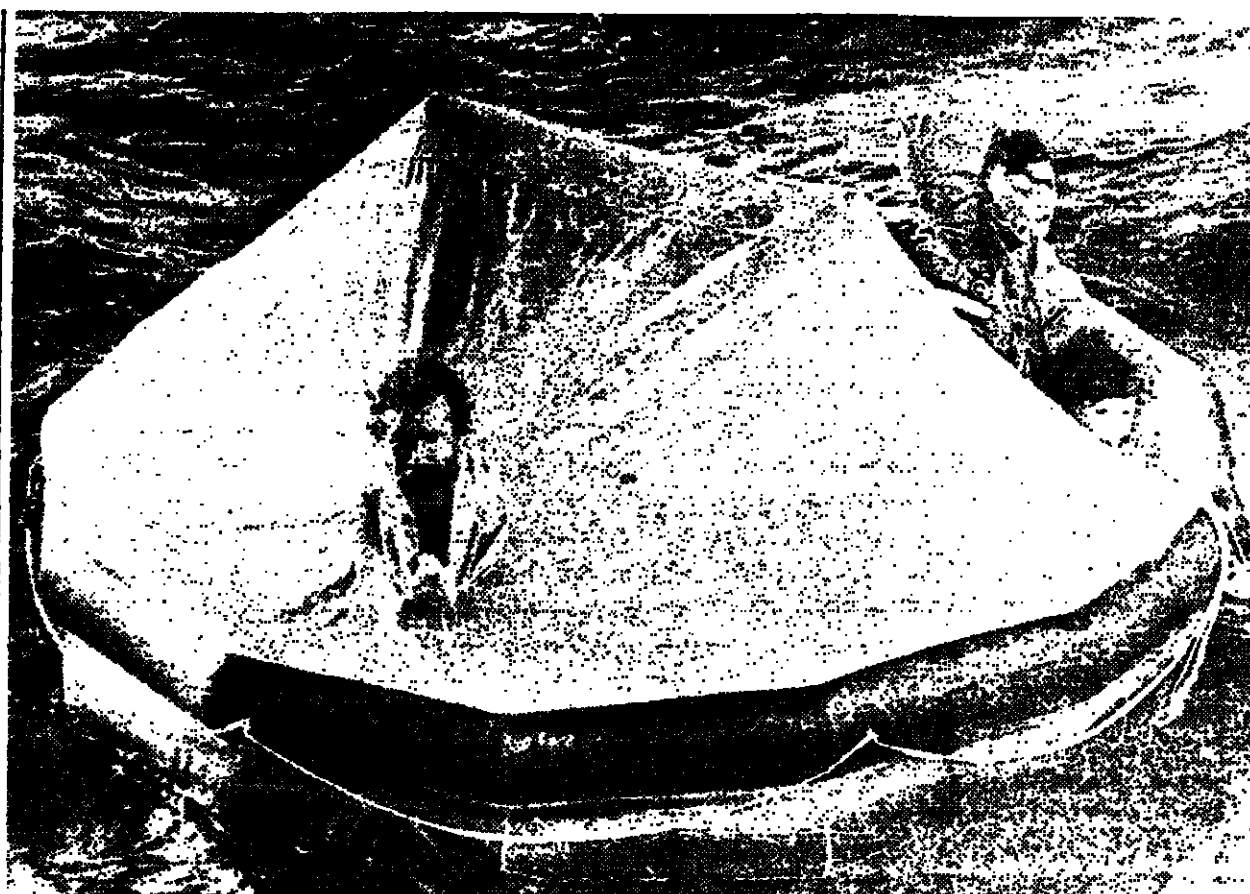
Speaking to *The Times* by satellite from Canberra yesterday, Mr Jones said that he and his family would disembark when the liner reached Los Angeles on Wednesday, and would fly home to London.

"Our boat has gone down and everything with it, but we would like to continue at some future date, and we will be thinking about how we might do it."

Mr Jones, aged 51, gave up his job as a computer engineer and sold his house at Wokingham, Berkshire, before setting sail from the south coast in 1982. With him were his wife Victoria, aged 38, and his daughters Catherine, aged 15, Diana, aged 13, and Hilary, aged 11. He said yesterday that the family would be returning to stay with friends and he would look for a job.

The Jones family epic took

Continued on page 16, col 8



Mr Joshua Jones and his family in their rubber lifeboat just before being rescued off Mexico by the P & O liner Canberra.

Rescued family aim to finish sea voyage

By Alan Hamilton

A round-the-world yachtsman and his family rescued off Mexico by the P & O liner Canberra when their 35-foot ketch sank in heavy seas will return to England this week eager to undertake their epic voyage all over again.

Mr Joshua Jones, his wife and three daughters, had sailed more than 30,000 miles from Littlehampton, Sussex, without serious incident when their 30-year-old boat, Dorothy Ann, was overcome by a storm and broke up off the Pacific coast. The family spent 18 hours in their lifeboat before the P & O flagship, on a world cruise, lifted them out of the water.

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Continued on page 16, col 8

Kohl is returned with a much-reduced majority

From John England, Bonn

The FDP of Herr Martin Bangemann, which Herr Strauss was hoping would fail to hurdle the 5 per cent barrier for parliamentary representation, confounded him with its result. Herr Strauss's attacks on the FDP during the election campaign are believed to have given the liberals their bonus, which ensures that their Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher will remain Foreign Minister, a post the Bavarian leader has long coveted.

Herr Genscher said: "The result for the FDP confirms our policies in the coalition on the economy and in foreign affairs."

The SPD's performance, following disasters in state polls in Bavaria and Hamburg late last year, was better than expected. Herr Johannes Rau,

the SPD candidate for the chancellorship, who fought a good fight and insisted to the last that the Social Democrats could still win their own majority, admitted last night that he was not satisfied with their result. "We wanted to be number one," he said. "But the conservatives have also suffered heavy losses."

The Greens party, which made its debut in the Bundestag in 1983, celebrated its increase in strength last night with a disco party. The ecologists are thought to have gained many of their extra votes from among the 3.6 million young Germans who voted for the first time.

The turnout was put at about 5 per cent lower than the 89.1 per cent at the last poll, part of which was blamed on cold, wet weather in West Germany's first winter election.

But many voters are believed to have stayed away from the polling booths because of lack of interest in the election.

Opinion polls also found that about 8 million voters had still been undecided on the eve of the election about their choice of party.

● GROEDE: Voters on the island of Groede on the coast of Schleswig-Holstein selected the polls before 10.45 am after casting their 12 ballots in the country's smallest constituency (Reuter reports). The Mayor, Herr Hermann Schwennesen, said: "We always get it over with quickly, so everyone can relax and go to lunch."

Continued on page 16, col 1

Chancellor Kohl casting his vote yesterday.

Wapping violence 'worst yet'

By Tim Jones

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday condemned the violence on Saturday night outside News International's plant at Wapping, east London, which left 162 police officers and at least 33 demonstrators injured.

There were 67 arrests, of which 13 were members of print unions.

Mr Hurd, who will make a Commons statement today, will be told by senior police officers that sophisticated and determined attempts were made by rioters to jam police messages electronically.

If they had succeeded they could have had a devastating effect on local ambulance and fire services, he said.

An attempt to string wire across a road to maim police horses and topple riders was also thwarted.

As a result of what he considered to be the worst violence witnessed outside the plant, the Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner, Mr Wyn Jones, will examine speeches by trade union leaders and Labour politicians to

determine whether there is a case to charge anyone with incitement to riot. "This was not an industrial dispute, this was public disorder and violence on a large scale."

Mr Jones also indicated he will discuss a change in tactics with Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, which would involve deploying fully protected police at the beginning of an affair. At present, he said, they were expected to be "Aunt Sallies".

Mr Jones said it was by far the worst disturbance in the year-long dispute, which began when 5,140 print workers went on strike and were dismissed. "At one stage the sky was blacked out by missiles. My men were all like cats on a hot tin roof. It was a frightening experience for us all."

Thirty-nine police officers were taken to hospital with facial injuries and concussion, 11 police horses were injured and nine police vehicles damaged.

Union leaders claimed the number of demonstrators injured could have been as many as 300.

The violence was also condemned by Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, who said: "The violence at Wapping has got to stop irrespective of the merits of the original dispute. The local community have been terrorised and are fed up to the teeth with the whole disruption of their daily lives. Surely, after a year, the law

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INSIDE

Iran claims to down six Iraqi jets

Three Iraqi jets were shot down as they bombed residential areas of the west Iranian town of Ilam yesterday and three more were downed over Iraqi territory east of Basra, according to Tehran.

However, Iraq said it had repelled two Iranian attacks on the southern front

Robert Fisk in Tehran, page 6

IN PART 2

Pressure on

Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton Group, faces a troubled week as reports persist that an inquiry may be ordered into the Debenhams takeover

Page 17

BA sale price

British Airways share price has been set at either 125p or 130p at a secret Whitehall meeting. The price will be announced tomorrow Page 17

Everton lose

A goal by Neil Webb in the 25th minute gave Nottingham Forest a 1-0 win over Everton and left Arsenal still two points ahead at the top of the first division

Page 30

Becker's aide

Boris Becker, the Wimbledon champion, is to be assisted with his fitness training by Frank Dick, Britain's director of athletics coaching

Page 30

Edberg again

Stefan Edberg of Sweden retained the Australian men's singles tennis championship when he beat Pat Cash of Australia

Page 28

New columnist

The distinguished columnist T.E. Uley joins *The Times* today. His first article, on consensus politics, appears on page 12. Mr Uley was formerly with *The Daily Telegraph*.

Portfolio

● The £8,000 prize in *The Times* Portfolio Gold weekly competition was shared on Saturday by two readers, and as there were no winners of the £4,000 daily prize there will be another £8,000 to be won today. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio list, page 20; rules and how to play, information service, page 16.

Attack on Alliance opened by Howe

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday branded the Alliance a "force for inertia" as the Conservatives opened a second front in the pre-election skirmishing.

In a speech designed to undermine this week's crucial attempt by the SDP and the Liberals to rebuild their support, the Foreign Secretary claimed they were a recipe for weak government and muddle.

A hung Parliament would be a "dangerous farce" in which "the good government of the nation would be submerged in a welter of sordid party deals pursuing the lowest common denominator."

Sir Geoffrey told Cambridge University's Conservative Association.

Today, the Alliance launches the final version of *Partnership for Progress*, its much-debated policy document, which will form the basis of its election manifesto.

It will also unveil its new campaign colours, logo and theme music as a curtain-raiser to Saturday's Barbican rally at which some 2,000 Liberal and SDP activists will gather.

A lengthy critique of Alliance policies by Conservative Central Office will be circulated to ministers, MPs, prospective parliamentary candidates and the media starting today.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Tory chairman, will act as his party's main media spokesman during the counter-attack.

Dr Owen responded to the Foreign Secretary's comments by evoking Mr Denis Healey's famous crack about Sir Geoffrey and the dead sheep. He retorted: "To be called a force for inertia by Geoffrey Howe is like being nuzzled by a kindly bear."

Dr Owen also said that the Alliance would be a "force for inertia" as the Conservatives opened a second front in the pre-election skirmishing.

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Shia group claims Beirut abductions

By Our Foreign Staff

A pro-Iranian Shia Muslim faction claimed responsibility yesterday for kidnapping three American college teachers and an Indian professor in Beirut.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio quoted a spokesman for the extremist Shia "Organization of the Oppressed on Earth" as saying the four would be killed if the United States became directly involved in the Gulf War.

The Christian radio reported earlier that it received the telephone call from a man who claimed responsibility for the abductions in the name of the "Organization of the Oppressed on Earth". He was quoted as saying the group kidnapped the four to prevent the extradition to the US of a Lebanese held in West Germany on terrorist charges.

Meanwhile, Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, was safe and still negotiating the release of Western hos-

tages in Beirut, Lambeth Palace said yesterday.

Mr Waite has not been seen since he left his hotel with Druze militiamen six days ago. The spate of kidnappings in which eight foreigners are reported to have been taken hostage since Mr Waite arrived in Beirut on January 12 has fuelled fears that he, too, may have become a victim.

Lambeth Palace refused to discuss how it has received the assurances of Mr Waite's safety, but Mrs Eve Kealey, a spokeswoman, said: "We expect to hear from him soon."

Beirut students and teachers yesterday called for a strike at all Lebanese schools and universities in protest against the kidnapping of the four professors.

The men — named only as Robert Polhill, Steven, Jesse Turner and Mitthleswar — were snatched from the campus by four armed men.

BT accuses engineers of sabotage

By Tim Jones

As 110,000 telephone engineers yesterday prepared to go on indefinite strike, British Telecom accused militants within the National Communications Union of sabotaging the system.

Although no major disruption has yet occurred, more than 24,000 lines a day are expected to go down and the Government will soon consider positioning police cars and fire engines on street corners to provide emergency cover for the public.

The sabotage allegations came from Mr Michael Bett, BT's director of Inland Communication. He said there were reports of "saw-off cables and other activities designed to create faults where faults did not exist."

His remarks were described as "outrageous" by Mr John Goding, the union's general

Continued on page 16, col 1

MPs angry at Irish embassy phone bug claim

By Andrew McEwen and Richard Ford

Strong pressure is to be brought on the Government today to answer allegations that British intelligence eavesdrops on communications between the Irish Government and its embassy in London.

MPs were in no mood yesterday to accept that national security should allow the Government to avoid answering questions. Conservative backbenchers and the Liberal-SDP Alliance said they would demand the setting up of a select committee on intelligence.

Claims that coded Irish telephone and telex messages were routinely monitored were considered plausible by many MPs, despite lack of confirmation.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, said he had no hard evidence but added: "We have always worked on the assumption that bugging does take place."

He described it as "a fact of life" and said there would be no official protest.

Linguists picked up at destination, according to reports first published in Ireland.

Whitehall maintained its routine refusal to confirm or deny allegations on security matters. A former minister said: "I would never admit that it had ever been going on" but added that some messages "were bound to be picked up."

He assumed that the Irish Government too did its best to monitor British diplomatic signals between Dublin and Whitehall.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris, vice-chairman of the Conservative Foreign Affairs Committee, said: "We are meant to

be working with, not against, the Irish embassy. The more that things like this happen the stronger the arguments for some sort of parliamentary supervisory role."

Conservative backbenchers and Alliance MPs plan to use tomorrow's debate on the Zircon spy satellite row to press for an explanation.

The MPs are dissatisfied with the present arrangements under which the Government may call in Opposition leaders to receive a confidential explanation of security decisions.

Mr David Alton, the Liberal MP and Alliance spokesman

on Ireland, said: "This is an extremely serious allegation and if it is likely to damage relations between London and Dublin."

"I shall be seeking a Government explanation. It underlines the need for a parliamentary committee of privy councillors to have oversight of the security services."

Sir John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, said that a select body of privy councillors could be given confidential information but the security services could not be made accountable to Parliament as a whole.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Chernobyl casts Sizewell shadow

Fresh controversy is assured when the inquiry report is published today on plans to build Britain's first American-type pressurized water reactor (PWR) nuclear power plant, at Sizewell, Suffolk.

Since the inquiry by Sir Frank Layfield, QC, ended before the Chernobyl accident happened, the impact of that disaster on nuclear development was not taken into account. Although a decision will not come before a parliamentary debate next month, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, could opt now, on the basis of the report, in favour of the PWR. Equally, he could choose, thanks to favourable evidence, to back the British type of Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor.

Work prospects, page 17

Meeting with killer

An elderly widow was recovering in hospital yesterday after confronting an intruder who had just murdered her daughter, Miss Anne Whittaker, aged 46, in a knife attack in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The mother, Mrs Joyce Whittaker, aged 68, was hit on the head by the man, who then fled the cottage at Wesley Street, Kirtley in Lindsey, Humberside. Mrs Whittaker was in deep shock for seven hours before she alerted a neighbour.

Optica on trial

The Optica "spotter" aircraft, eight of which were destroyed by arson last week, will begin trials today with the British forces.

One aircraft is due to be delivered to the Boscombe Down experimental airfield near Salisbury, Wiltshire, for military pilots to put it through its paces.

The £140,000 aircraft can fly at speeds as low as 80 knots but at a fraction of the operating and capital cost of helicopters.

Heliport blocked

Residents in London's Docklands have won their fight to prevent a heliport on the Thames. A government inspector has rejected the scheme.

The application by Blue Star Management to locate a helicopter pad on a floating pontoon moored off Chamber's Wharf, Bermondsey, was rejected because it would create noise, disrupt schoolchildren and could lead to more traffic in a largely residential area.

30 apply for Truro

Applications close today to find a successor to Mr David Penhaligon, the Liberal MP for Truro, Cornwall who was killed in a road accident last month.

About 30 people want to fight the seat for the Liberals, but Mr Penhaligon's widow Annette, aged 40, has decided not to stand.

Her husband had a majority of more than 10,000 at the last election and the successful candidate will be chosen by secret ballot next month.



Check on Militant

A senior Labour Party official yesterday paid a second visit to Blyth, Northumberland, to investigate claims by Mr John Ryan, the outgoing MP, that the constituency has been taken over by Militant supporters.

Mr David Hughes is investigating the way membership allegations are handled by the party, which recently chose Mr Ronnie Campbell, a left-winger, as parliamentary candidate. Mr Ryan has threatened to resign and force a by-election unless his claims are investigated.

Mr Hughes, who first visited Blyth in November, said he would report to Labour's national executive on Wednesday.

Red tape 'delays claim for bomb payout'

Government red tape is reducing the chances of injury compensation for four British victims of a terrorist bomb blast near Athens 16 months ago, a Euro MP maintained yesterday.

Mr Dennis Hunter, his wife Joyce, their daughter Mrs Sandra Smith and her husband Phil, from Scunthorpe, Humberside, have been fighting for at least £25,000 from the Greek authorities for loss of earnings and other costs.

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, Conservative MEP for York, said: "Ironically, both Britain and Greece have signed a European treaty which would provide them with compensation, but it has to be ratified."

The Euro MP has been told by Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, that Britain cannot ratify the treaty until the Criminal Justice Bill has been passed by Westminster.

Underground may be target for sell-off

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The London Underground is a possible candidate for privatization if the Conservative Party wins the next election.

Senior Cabinet ministers believe that the capital's Tube system, now carrying record numbers of passengers and requiring a lower public subsidy than ever before, is now suitable for the introduction of private finance and for

continuing the Government's objective of taking more industries, particularly in transport, out of public control.

Although a commitment to privatize the Underground will not be included in the Conservative election manifesto, it will inevitably be considered in the new Parliament as the Government continues its drive to roll back the frontiers of the state, according to senior ministers.

The Government's determination to step up its privatization effort was signalled in the

annual public expenditure White Paper, published a fortnight ago, when it increased its target for proceeds from the sale of public assets.

The Government is already committed to privatizing the water industry in the next Parliament. Other targets most frequently mentioned by ministers are British Steel, British Coal, British Rail and the Post Office.

Apart from the period when they were run by the Greater London Council, the London buses and the Tube have

operated as nationalized industries.

The Underground, with its nine lines criss-crossing London, carried more than 700 million passengers in 1985 and its attractions to private industry could be strong.

The second phase of the Government's policy of introducing competition into local bus services outside London came into effect yesterday (Rodney Cowton writes).

Under the Transport Act 1985, and subject to safety requirements, would-be op-

erators can now intervene on bus routes after giving only six weeks notice of their intention to do so and registering their routes with the Traffic Commissioners.

The first phase of the operation of the Act began in late October when operators introduced services which they had registered as far back as last February.

From now on there will be the possibility of much fiercer competition, though there is little evidence of any dramatic developments.

BA degree course is halted by criticism

By John Clare
Education Correspondent

The quality of a BA degree course at Rolle College, near Exmouth, has been so severely criticized by the Schools Inspectorate that the college has decided to abolish it.

In a report published yesterday, the inspectors say the course, a BA in combined studies, has "serious deficiencies". They describe a substantial proportion of the work they saw as "poor by degree standards".

About 500 students have taken the course since it was introduced seven years ago. It was approved by Exeter University, which still awards the degree.

Since the inspectors' visit in February 1985, no new students have been admitted to the course but about 60 are still completing it.

In their report the inspectors say that, unusually, there was no statement of the course's overall aims. "Consequently, there is some difficulty in estimating the extent to which the course meets its own objectives."

Four subjects come in for particular criticism, some directed at students, some at lecturers. In geography, much of the teaching was "didactic" and the subject's contribution to the degree course was "modest in quality". In music, the amount of tuition offered "fell significantly short" of what students needed.

Education studies were undemanding, repetitive and lacking cohesion, while in art much of the students' work displayed a "lack of technical proficiency and was superficial and shallow in content".

In the remaining four subjects the inspectors considered that strengths outweighed defects. But the defects, they describe as substantial.

In social studies, "too many essays suffered from 'plagiarism'". In theatre arts, some of the practical work was "of a standard" related "more to school than degree level work". History, however, was "well taught" and English "an interesting course taught by a committed team".

Last night, Dr Michael Preston, the college principal, said he knew what he was appointed in 1981 that the course had problems. He had set up a working party to remedy them.

Climber dies

Mr Mark Burton, aged 30, died on Saturday in a climbing accident in the Lake District. Mr Burton, of Bishops Cleeve, Herefordshire, fell to his death from the Swirell Edge gully on Helvellyn.

Live parcel

A bridegroom who had too much to drink on his stag night was put in a sack and sent as a Red Star parcel from Euston to Manchester. He was seen at Stafford at 3am and returned, sober.

Notes: The Times overseas edition is published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. It is available in the following countries: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, South America, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, and elsewhere. The price of the overseas edition is £5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are 50p. The price of the domestic edition is £3.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are 30p. The price of the combined edition is £7.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are 80p. The price of the combined edition is £7.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are 80p.

Journalist's home raided by Special Branch team

By Staff Reporters

Special Branch police yesterday searched the home of Mr Duncan Campbell, the journalist and author of the article in the *New Statesman* which disclosed the existence of the secret Project Zircon spy satellite.

A team of seven officers arrived at his terrace house in north London and kicked in the front door after Mr Campbell said the lock was jammed.

A separate team continued searching files and papers in the magazine's offices, watched by Mr John Lloyd, its editor. The search began on Saturday night.

The police were acting under the terms of warrants granted to Det Supt Hilton Cole, of the Metropolitan Police, by a judge on Friday night, under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act.

As he waited for the police to arrive, Mr Campbell said: "I think these are the tactics of Eastern Europe or South Africa. It is an attempt to placate Mrs Thatcher's political embarrassment and to distract public attention from what has really been going on."

He added: "What they are seeking to do with this series of raids is to intimidate the press from inquiring, and to draw attention away from the deception of Parliament."

Mr Campbell said he hoped Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, would watch the BBC film which also tells the story of Project Zircon, and realize it did not breach security but disclosed a deception of Parliament.

The Special Branch raid was yesterday condemned as a "futile gesture" by Mr Robin Cook, a Labour trade spokesman and one of several Opposition MPs who have viewed the film.

Mr Cook, who was prevented by Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, from showing the film privately to 13 of his colleagues at the Commons last week, also claimed the search raised wider questions of press freedom.

"It's all of a piece with the Government's handling of the whole affair. They sought an injunction three days too late to stop the story getting out, and now the story is out and the whole world knows, they have sent the Special Branch

into the *New Statesman*," he said on BBC Radio 4.

Mr Cook added that it was the first time the Special Branch and the security services had gone into an independent newspaper to "turn it over". He said: "It's the knock on the door in the night."

Mr Campbell has signed an affidavit swearing he received no information about Project Zircon from any source. Mr Brian Raymond, his solicitor, said the police would find nothing at the house which had not been published.

Mr Chris Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, who was at the house when it was searched, said that Mr Campbell had asked him to be present. Mr Smith said he was puzzled and disturbed that police should go through "absolutely everything" in the offices of an independent newspaper.

At the *New Statesman* offices in central London, a team of six Special Branch officers, led by an inspector, are understood to have identified several documents in which they were interested.

But Mr Lloyd said: "They have found nothing and they will find nothing."

He added the police action was "vindictive and: something of a blow to Press freedom".

It was designed to make it clear the Government "will not tolerate open inquiry, or stories written that embarrass them," Mr Lloyd said. The police were going through files that were not related to the satellite story and were searching in areas where he had assured them that Mr Campbell did not work.

Today, ministers will meet to finalize the terms of a government motion, confined to the arguments surrounding the Speaker's ruling, for tomorrow's debate on the affair.

While determined to back the Speaker, they face the problem of squaring that support with a reassurance to backbenchers that his action cannot be construed as a threat to their independence when sitting in Commons select committees.

Mr Weatherill has said that his ban was an emergency measure until MPs had had a chance to consider whether the film should be shown.



Mr Devan Spence and his son Thomas, aged two, of Rutland, Leicestershire, preparing for yesterday's annual march of the King's Army, the Royalist wing of the English Civil War Society, from St James's Palace to Banqueting House (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Dispute at RUC may go to court

By Richard Ford

The dispute between Sir John Hermon, chief of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and Mr Alan Wright, leader of the RUC's Police Federation, threatens to lead to court action.

The federation is to seek an injunction to test the chief constable's power to cancel a regulation which allowed it to speak publicly on matters affecting the "welfare and efficiency" of its members.

The two men have been in disagreement for almost a year since the chief constable cancelled an article of the force's code of conduct which allowed the federation to speak to the media.

Mr Wright ignored the ban imposed after an article in the federation's magazine suggested that the Army, rather than the RUC, should undertake patrols along the border with the republic.

Mr James Anderton, Greater Manchester Chief Constable, will today make the most difficult decision of his life, whether to sacrifice principle for career.

At talks at the Home Office tomorrow he will be asked to give a verbal undertaking that he will confine himself to running the force and make no further contentious public statements.

Pressure grows to alter merger rules

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government came under increased pressure yesterday to make changes in its competition policy, after the wave of "merger mania" in the City.

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, called for new rules to govern the operation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, accused the Government of neglecting the public interest and Mr Michael Gyllis, the chairman of the Conservative backbench Industry Committee, called for every large-scale merger to be referred to the monopolies commission.

In a major economic speech to the SDP's Tawney Society, Dr Owen said that when the commission examined a merger the burden of proof should be shifted to the bidder, who would be obliged to demonstrate why a takeover was in the public interest.

"The machinery for implementing competition policy is too diffuse and should be simplified by establishing a single Office of Fair Trading with executive authority and powers comparable to those exercised by the United States General Trade Commission," he said.

Giving a warning that the Alliance "will never accept unbridled capitalism", and emphasizing that for the SDP the "social market economy" included the redistribution of assets and not just their sale, Dr Owen called for tougher measures to regulate the City than those outlined in the Financial Services Act.

Mr Heath, speaking on the BBC radio programme, *The World This Weekend*, said that it was the Government's responsibility to look after the public interest, and that was not "meddling in industry".

"If you say that you're not going to do anything because that would be described as meddling in industry you are abdicating all responsibility for the public interest," he said.

The least the Government should do was to revert to the 1983 law on monopolies and mergers.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, responded that although the Government was reviewing competition policy he believed that industry was better served by the system introduced in 1983.

Mr Gyllis, the chairman of the backbench industry committee and of the Small Business Bureau, called for legislation to protect small firms from the effects of mergers.



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Opera house seeks urgent solution to mounting debts

Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Opera House is striving for a new three-year funding arrangement with the Government to overcome mounting debts, having failed to secure a substantial increase in its Arts Council grant for next year.

Separate board meetings at Covent Garden and the Arts Council this week are likely to be crucial for the future of the smaller opera house, which is facing a projected £2 million deficit for the current financial year.

Discussions between executives of both sides are continuing, but the council has already rejected a bid from Covent Garden for its grant to be increased from the present £13.1 million to £15 million.

I understand that any increase will be limited to a percentage point, which would be a significant cut in real terms. The council has already allocated "standstill" grants for next year to the National

Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Sir John Tooley, general director of the opera house, conceded yesterday that the target figure of £15 million was "obviously unrealistic", given constraints on Arts Council funds.

"We are now trying to see if a solution to our under-funding can be found in a three-year rolling system. We would be in favour of such an arrangement, providing it is coped with inflation."

A marginal increase in the council grant under the present annual system would create great difficulties for the opera house, he said.

"One hopes and prays we will find a way out. We simply have to," Sir John said.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher expressed interest in the three-year proposal in a recent letter to Sir William Rees-Mogg, the chairman of the Arts Council. However, it is uncertain

whether discussions on the project between the council and Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, will be completed before the new financial year begins in April.

Mr Luke Rittner, the secretary general of the council, said the talks had only just begun and it was not known when a decision might be taken.

"Meanwhile, a new financial year is approaching, and the council will have to make a decision regarding the subsidy for the opera house. It is difficult to know how the two timetables may or may not interlock."

Mr Rittner cautioned against any suggestion that three-year funding would automatically resolve Covent Garden's problems.

The issue will be debated by the opera house board tomorrow and by the Arts Council the following day.

The scenario emerging from the negotiations so far is of a tug-of-war between the opera house, which is pressing for the three-year proposal to be implemented quickly, and the council which would prefer to allocate a grant for 1987-88 pending further discussions on longer term funding.

The final decision is likely to rest with the council, since it holds the purse-strings.

Mr Luke Rittner, secretary general of the Arts Council, narrowly escaped losing the sight of an eye after being attacked while jogging in Hyde Park, London.

Mr Rittner, aged 39, was running alone on Friday evening when two youths stopped him and asked for the time.

As he looked up he was hit across the face with what is believed to have been an iron bar.

Despite a damaged eye and a broken nose, he managed to flee from his attackers before collapsing. A passing taxi driver took him home.

Room with a View voted best film

A Room with a View and The Mission have topped the accolades for British cinema in this year's London Evening Standard Film Awards (Gavin Bell writes).

Between them, they were cited in four of the eight presentations at a reception in the Savoy Hotel last night.

The best film of 1986 was A Room with a View, for which Tony Pierce-Roberts, the director of photography, won

the technical achievement award.

Ray McAnally was voted best actor for his performance in The Mission - for which Robert Bolt won the best screenplay award - and in No Surrender. Coral Browne's performance in Dreamchild earned her the top actress citation.

Funniest man of the year was John Cleese, who won the

Peter Sellers award for comedy for his role in Clockwise.

The most promising newcomer was Gary Oldman, the star of Sid and Nancy.

A special award for outstanding contribution to British cinema was presented to Mr Jake Eberts, chief executive of Goldcrest Productions, which has made

Chariots of Fire, Gandhi and The Killing Fields.

Secret of Thatcher loaf on TV

A BBC television producer is making a film, which claims to reveal a secret closely guarded by the Prime Minister.

State security is not involved. In fact, it concerns a recipe for starch-free bread, which Mrs Margaret Thatcher will reveal on Wednesday in Take Nobody's Word For It, the first of a new series of BBC2 science programmes.

The Prime Minister's foray into culinary chemistry stems from an early career in scientific research.

Mr Ian Fells, professor of energy conversion at Newcastle University, was invited to join Mrs Thatcher in a few televised experiments.

Together, they demonstrate the acidic properties of red cabbage, and how a chemical reaction between egg white and a copper bowl will produce fluffy meringues.

Mrs Thatcher holds a second-class honours degree in chemistry from Somerville College, Oxford. She later spent several years as a research chemist on food technology.

The "leaked" secret of Mrs Thatcher's recipe for home-baked bread is sold water. Poured over dough, it washes out the starch before cooking.

Princess supports Childline

By Jill Sherman

The Princess of Wales has offered a "generous" donation to the national telephone helpline Childline, which needs to raise £2 million this year to cover its costs.

The services, set up to help children who are physically, emotionally and sexually abused, has dealt with more than 4,000 cases since its inception in October.

Last month the line took 18,400 calls but Mr Paul Griffiths, its director of strategic planning, estimates that 10,500 callers are trying to get through daily.

"The vast majority of children have insisted on remaining anonymous and have sought support and relief from our counsellors, refusing any kind of official intervention."

His task now was to investigate the range of possible solutions.

Last night, Miss Esther Rantzen, the charity's chairman, welcomed the gift from the Princess. She said that donations had flooded in.

Dartmoor prison was sponsoring three officers to be prisoners for the day and prisoners were organizing their events. Wimpey Engineering and Austin Rover were hoping to raise £50,000.

8 organs taken from one donor

Surgeons from four cities travelled to Derbyshire Royal Infirmary for eight "spare part" organs from a donor, it was disclosed yesterday.

The operations were carried out in three hours by four surgeons at the weekend.

Two doctors travelled from Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, for the heart and lungs, and three from Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, for the liver.

Two surgeons drove from the City Hospital, Nottingham, to take the kidneys and two doctors from the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary's ophthalmic unit recovered the corneas.

An infirmary spokesman said: "In the present state of medical knowledge there is not much more that could have been done when death was declared. Relatives and the coroner gave authorization."

The transplant co-ordinator, based in Nottingham, contacted the various hospitals.

The donor is believed to have been a teenage girl, Ms Nuala Lawler, aged 36, from Dublin, was last night recovering at the Harfield Hospital from her second heart and lung transplant in 15 months.

Bank-note artist

Swiss allow replica money

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mr Stephen Boggs, the bank-note artist who comes up against the might of the Bank of England in a test case in April, has scored a victory in Switzerland.

The national Swiss bank has given permission for him to print a limited edition of 3,000 of his drawings depicting 20-franc notes, some of them actual size.

He said yesterday in Basel: "I am over the moon. Some of these prints will be exhibited and sold and some I will spend myself. I will only sign those that I spend."

Mr Boggs is being prosecuted by the Bank of England over his drawings of English bank notes. He faces an unlimited fine if convicted.

The case is the first to be brought by the Bank under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981. It is being keenly watched by the artistic community. Mr Boggs, aged 32, full name James Stephen George Boggs, of Hampstead, north London, faces four charges under the Act of making notes without consent. Committal proceedings are set for April 8 at Horseferry Road Court.

An American who has lived in England for seven years, Mr Boggs has established an international reputation as an artist who draws banknotes and uses them. He has paid for meals, clothes, and an airline

ticket with drawings which depict a number of different currencies.

His notes, which range in size from 5ft by 3ft to actual-size drawings, have been exhibited widely and have sold for between £500 and £1,500.

There is no attempt to deceive, he maintains. He draws freehand on one side of a piece of paper. "I explain to people that I have done the drawing and want to offer it for the goods. They are happy to take it and give me change and a receipt."

Such exchanges have included a bill for the five-star Hotel Uler in Basel for 310 Swiss francs for which he gave a drawing of a 300-franc note. The hotel took the drawing and gave him change of 190 francs.

He has also bought four Swiss shirts and paid for a round-trip Zurich - London airline ticket costing £290 francs with a drawing of a 300-franc note. He got 10 francs change.

In London his payments include a £20 taxi fare, a meal costing £19, paid for with a drawing of a £20 note on the tablecloth, and his rent.

"People are quite happy because they know that the drawings are worth far more than the money depicted on them," he said.

One such recipient is his landlord, Mr Ted Gardiner, who has taken several £100 drawings. "I feel it's an investment. The drawings are worth far more than their face value. I was in a public house in Bristol when somebody offered £380 for a drawing of a £5 note."

For Mr Boggs it is not an attempt to ridicule the bank note so much as to state in artistic terms its importance. "I am a numeric artist. My work has always been in numbers, from playing cards to car number plates. Numbers are the universal language and almost every culture uses them. You don't need to speak the language if you have the right numbers on a piece of paper."

The change and the receipts he gets are an important part of the work. Both, plus the goods exchanged, are framed where possible to form part of his exhibition. The next such exhibition is in Switzerland from February 9.

The bank takes the prosecution very seriously. It was an exhibition of Mr Boggs' work in the Midlands Bank in Hampstead which prompted proceedings.

Since the proceedings began, a number of MPs have backed a call for the prosecution to be dropped.



Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on their way to church yesterday during their stay at Sandringham (Photograph: James Gray)

Aids campaign

Fowler's message from US

By Thomson Prentice

Mr Norman Fowler returned to London from his fact-finding mission to the United States yesterday with renewed determination to control the spread of Aids.

"The plain message I bring back is that if we can take action now we can prevent the position here getting to the stage it has reached in the United States," he said.

Although the Secretary of State for Social Services was often daunted by the size of America's epidemic during his visit he took away from it valuable insights, which, he believes, will be crucial when applied to the British problem.

In the coming weeks and months there are likely to be a number of important new moves.

They will include improved care and treatment for Aids sufferers in their own homes, with a system of visiting nurses and social workers to provide treatment and support for victims and their families.

Health officials in Birmingham are considering giving free condoms to prostitutes to help to prevent the spread of Aids (Jill Sherman writes).

The scheme, which could lead to a coach touring red light areas to distribute contraceptives, is one of many ideas being examined by a policy group.

"We are looking at ways of getting the right information to all high-risk groups," Dr Rod Griffiths, Central Birmingham's district medical officer, said yesterday. The group includes representatives from the city's five health districts, education and housing departments.

There will be a "partnership in care" hospice project for terminally ill Aids patients. The hospices will involve the active participation of churches and voluntary organizations with cash support from the Government or from local authorities.

There will be urgent moves towards controlling the rapid

spread of Aids infection from Britain's sub-culture of drug addicts into the general population. This is one of the most important problems that Mr Fowler believes is facing the country.

In New York his visit to St Clare's Hospital, which has its own Aids unit, confirmed to him that half of all cases in the city are the result of infection from contaminated needles among addicts. New York's cases amount to the worst in any city in the Western world.

Two of those cases were women Mr Fowler met in the hospital. Both have children, both are terminally sick.

"It is particularly tragic to see such young women overtaken by this disease. Thankfully their children were not affected but about 165 babies here have been born with Aids and most have died," he said.

The trip has made Mr Fowler one of the world's best informed politicians on the disease.

"Aids is an issue which transcends normal politics," he said.

Letters, page 13

Expansion of World Service is shelved

By Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

The BBC has shelved consideration of a plan to expand the distribution of World Service programmes to the home audience.

The proposal has provoked a dispute between Bush House, the headquarters of BBC External Broadcasting, and Broadcasting House, where the domestic radio services are managed.

Corporation sources said that public disclosure of the proposal by Mr John Tusa, managing director of BBC External Services, has caused resentment and was miscalculated.

They said the proposal is too controversial to be debated publicly at a time when the Government is preparing to release a green paper outlining plans for radio.

Mr Tusa's remarks could be seen as contradicting the assertion by Mr Brian Wenham, managing director of the domestic radio service, that the corporation is not seeking to provide additional radio services.

BBC World Service broadcasts in English can currently be heard on medium wave in the South-east. Mr Tusa wants to expand its audience by building new transmitters. He is also seeking a place for World Service news bulletins on Radio Three.

Mr Tusa reasons that since the World Service is supported by tax money, it should be available to all taxpayers.

Opposition is said to be widespread within the BBC domestic radio service, particularly among journalists who resent the perceived attempt by External Services to intrude on their domain.

The proposal is also said to concern BBC personnel managers, who fear that Mr Tusa's plan would require renegotiation of employment agreements.

Mr Wenham is understood to be annoyed at what he sees as Mr Tusa's effort to extend his writ.

Bush House says it has research indicating that World Service programmes have a significant and appreciative audience in the South-east.

But an official refused to release the data last week, explaining that Bush House did not want to draw any more attention to the subject.

Portfolio Gold - Winning tonic for nurse

Two readers share the weekly Portfolio Gold prize of £8,000.

Mrs Margaret Raymont, a nurse, of Loose, near Maidstone, Kent, said she would use some of her £4,000 prize for home improvements.

Mrs Raymont, who is married with two children, said: "The money will be very useful because last week we discovered water pouring down inside our porch. Now we can make some home improvements."

"After that we may use some of the money for a holiday."

Mrs Raymont has been a reader of The Times for more than 10 years, and has played Portfolio Gold since the game started.

"I could not believe it when I won. I checked my numbers three times to make sure."

The other weekly winner was Miss E M Clowser, of Kilburn, north-west London, who is retired.

Miss Clowser has been a reader of The Times for more than 30 years.

There was no winner of Saturday's daily prize of £4,000, so today's dividend is increased to £8,000.

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Mrs Raymont, who plans to improve her home

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When rates of interest and capital appreciation have been high.

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18-30	18-32	£2,970	£2,602	£921	£6,493	£2,970
30	34	2,967	2,599	920	6,490	2,967
40	44	2,963	2,595	915	6,485	2,953
40	44	2,963	2,595	905	6,383	3,820
45	49	2,876	2,519	892	6,287	2,876
50	54	2,856	2,481	880	6,189	2,856
55	59	2,795	2,440	863	6,088	2,795
60	64	2,741	2,401	850	5,992	2,741
65	69	2,709	2,373	840	5,922	1,978
70	74	2,709	2,373	840	5,922	1,620
75	74	2,709	2,373	840	5,922	1,247

FOR A MONTHLY INVESTMENT OF £50

Present Age and Sex		Guaranteed Sum Assured	Projected Annual Bonuses	Special Illustrative Capital Bonus	Total Projected Maturity Value*	Guaranteed Immediate Life Cover
Male	Female					
18-30	18-32	£7,661	£6,771	£2,375	£16,747	£7,661
30	34	7,694	6,705	2,373	16,732	7,694
35	39	7,614	6,620	2,360	16,594	7,614
40	44	7,551	6,547	2,355	16,463	7,551
45	49	7,418	6,398	2,300	16,216	7,418
50	54	7,321	6,213	2,282	16,084	7,321
55	59	7,219	6,119	2,190	15,708	7,219
60	64	7,103	6,012	2,130	15,527	7,103
65	69	7,029	5,937	2,179	15,365	5,132
70	74	7,009	5,937	2,179	15,365	4,807
75	74	7,029	5,937	2,179	15,365	3,254

A HARDY flasher, wearing only a donkey jacket and orange bobble hat, braved the freeze to streak past a woman in Basingstoke, Hants. "He deserves a medal," said police.

A LECTURE by Polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes in Cardiff had to be called off yesterday because he was snowed in at his Exmoor home.

At Marston Valley Brickworks, in Bedfordshire, a duck, frozen solid, was spotted in a lorry laden with clay. It was thawed out and lived. A flock of sheep in Northamptonshire was frozen solid.

NO GO, JOE
An impatient motorist was booked by police after he tried to overtake a snowplough clearing a Hampshire motorway and crashed into it.

COMPUTER designer Gerald Wilson, 32, of Didcot, Oxon, ski-ed part of the way to work at Reading yesterday.

CHIMPS are sucking cough drops and swigging fruit juice in a West German zoo because they were catching colds from keepers.

DRINK caused a 15-vehicle pile-up in snowbound West Germany yesterday—all crashed on a frozen lake of lager spilled from a capsized tanker.

ICE WORK!
Stable workers Kevin Deacon, 24, and Vicki Coalville, 17, stranded by snow near Gainsborough, Lincs, built an igloo and spent a cosy night.

THE weather proved too much for an artificial ski slope — there was just too much snow. Instructors — the pros.

In Salzburg, a journalist reported that the cold was causing hens' eggs to explode as soon as they were laid. Twenty-eight members of a

A PARROT which flew into a Taunton hospital's intensive care unit was thawed out by nurses and handed over to the RSPCA.

STAFF at the London Weather Centre donned anoraks to fight their own chill factor when their heating system broke down.

FISH firm boss Nick Gutfreund has beaten the bitter cold at his warehouse in Clifton, Bristol, by relaxing in his FRIDGE, which is set at a mild 1°C ABOVE freezing.

STRIPTease agency boss Anne Robertson has ordered her girls — and boys — to wear thermal undies while dashing between jobs in Newcastle upon Tyne.

FIREMEN came to the rescue of a colony of frozen bats yesterday when they fell to the street from the belfrey of a church in Munich, Germany, after being aroused from hibernation by the extreme cold. The bats were treated by a local vet.

TOUGH Harold Lanaway, 79, had a dip in the freezing sea at Highcliffe, Dorset — to cure a cold! "It's the salt," he said.

KAREN Harrison, 27, topped up her cracked car radiator in Portsmouth with four cans of lager — and kept going!

BRILLIANT!
FARMERS in Wiltshire and Somerset are using pneumatic drills and pick-axes to prise up parsnips and turnips from frozen fields.

FIREMEN battling to stop a £100,000 blaze at a 16th century building in Gloucester had to stop work — to chip icicles from their helmets. Water froze as it hit the road.

TORTOISE owners were warned yesterday that their pets would die if they were left hibernating outside in the cold.

UNLUCKY DIP
A motorist drove into what he thought was the snowed-up entrance to county hall in Taunton, Somerset yesterday — and landed in a fish pond.

explain:
"I was sitting on the loo next to an admiral at McMurdo Base," Mr. Barber told us. "The toilet seats were made of stainless steel."

Painful

"I suddenly realised that my old man had become stuck in the extreme cold."

A TALK about life on the snow-covered Himalayas, was called off at Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, yesterday — because of the weather.

TWO chilly cats — one frozen by its fur, to a chimney pot and the other stuck to a tree — were rescued by Birmingham firemen yesterday.

POLICE pounced on supermarket burglars in Blyth, Northumberland, by following their snowy footprints to a nearby hide-out. Four.

BIG BEN has its "hong" back again. It lost it on Monday when the hammers which strike its famous chimes froze.

By DICK SAXTY
A WOMAN driver trying to find Canal Street in Chester took a wrong turning — on to the canal itself. She drove 100 yards.

DRIVERS stranded in the New Forest were kept warm yesterday with hot soup delivered by dog lover Jenny Manley and her team of four Siberian huskies.

Burrowed time
EIGHT penguins which burrowed into snowdrifts three days ago to escape the cold were dug out by Dudley Zoo keepers yesterday.

PHEW! An Army helicopter flew in clean underwear and socks for 100 men who have been marooned at Kingsnorth power station, Kent, for three days.

HEATHROW Airport beat the Big Freeze yesterday, thanks to thousands of gallons of animal urine. Urea crystals, made from urine, were spread on the runways to stop them icing up.

We may not have made the headlines, but our story is just as remarkable.

COAT STATION
ASHOP worker was left shivering in the street yesterday when muggers stripped him of his sheepskin coat. Joseph Brierley.

USING cash from a £40-a-week state grant, Keith Tinnington, 32, has fitted ski's to his barrow to sell hot dogs in snowbound Ripley, Derbyshire.

SNOW White was short on help yesterday — three of her dwarfs got lost in the snow. The tiny masts.

It's no easy task offering express overnight delivery with the whole country snowed in. We know. We've just done precisely that. However, we're pleased to say, that with few exceptions the worst winter for decades has brought little interruption to the normal Datapost service.

For this we owe a big vote of thanks. To all the staff who have worked above and beyond the call of duty.

Manning phones around the clock. Diverting goods from trains to planes, all at a moment's notice. And finding ways down highways and byways others found impassable.

That such feats have gone largely unnoticed by the press is perhaps not surprising. Business as usual may be very good news for our customers.

But very poor news for eager journalists.

Datapost

TWO women who rescued their dog from a lake in Billericay, Essex, had to be rescued themselves when the water froze solid around their rowing boat.

STAFF at the Central Electricity Generating Board's new London headquarters are freezing. Some bright spark forgot to put central heating in the first two floors.

A SPEED skating championship at Boston Fen, Lincolnshire, was cancelled because of heavy snow. A spokesman said: "We pray for ice every year but this time conditions were too severe."

WINE froze in bottles, popping corks, at a store at Twyford, near Reading. The iced wine then cascaded out.

ICICLE PERIL
A new peril hit snowbound Essex yesterday — falling icicles, some 3ft long.

AMATEUR weatherman Bill Foggett was last night sticking to his forecast of a mild winter — with the cold snap lasting just a few days and followed by warm, wet weather.

Yard review may widen traffic warden role

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard has started a review of the work of its 1,600 traffic wardens which could lead to giving them increased powers, electronic ticket machines and even a new name. One result could be a stronger link between wardens and local communities so that the public has a greater appreciation of the wardens' work. They might also get discretion over handing out tickets.

The Yard began the potentially controversial review, still only in its infancy, after it was faced with the growing traffic crisis in London and the difficulties of maintaining warden manpower.

London is 200 short of its full complement of 1,800, losing a third of its strength every two years.

The wardens have recently been awarded a 5 per cent pay increase so that a fully-trained warden now earns £142 a week. But police acknowledge the pay is still small.

It is likely to remain so while there are financial restraints and last year an internal Yard research paper suggested exploring other improvements to the job.

As a result, Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has launched a project by his management services department.

Chief Supt Eric Hyett, of the Yard's traffic department, said the wardens earned small pay, considering they were "a group subjected to public abuse and contempt although a vital part of traffic management."

"What we are trying to do is perhaps looking at widening the scope of their activities by making it a more attractive job and the public can see they

are not entirely involved in a punitive job."

One possibility could be to change the name perhaps describing the wardens as some form of police auxiliary. The uniform could also be redesigned.

Changes were needed, the superintendent said, because "parking controls have gone beyond enforcement capabilities."

"Local authorities have expanded parking controls, leaving the police to put them into effect," he said.

At the same time the wardens have a feeling of isolation, caught between the police and the public.

Manpower would be saved by cutting down on paper work. At the moment copies of tickets issued have to be translated on to computers but wardens could have electronic notepads with them which punched out a ticket, kept a record of the offence and later fed the data into a larger computer.

It might be possible to change the wardens' jobs by giving them some of the powers police have over stationary vehicles.

At the moment the warden can give a ticket to someone who is parking illegally on a yellow line or meter but not if a car, a few yards away is parked on a zig-zag line. That becomes a police matter.

The police have the power to decide whether to prosecute but the wardens do not. Once they have started writing a ticket it must be completed.

Wardens are already working on the microcomputers handling parking tickets: about 2.8 million were issued last year.

Retraining . . . to drive a tram

By Ronald Faux,
Employment Affairs
Correspondent

Harry Scott is learning to be a tram driver. Not for him a retraining course in one of the new technologies when he was made redundant as a shift manager in a North-east factory.

He decided instead to step back in time and master the controls of a 1926 Gateshead tram, one of three working trams which rattle throughout half-a-mile of track at the Beamish open-air museum near Durham.

The law says he must have 16 hours' driving before taking a test that will qualify him to carry passengers, giving them the actual experience of travel by tram.

Beamish, Museum of the Year last year, prides itself on being a living, working museum. Mr Scott, aged 44, of Stanley, Co Durham, was made redundant a year ago.

He was an engineer who had worked for one company for 16 years. "I went in one day and that was it. I do not hear the company any more. The decision was out of their hands and there were hundreds in the same position."

"The factory went from 1,100 to 300. Up here there is a week although I applied to loads of companies without even getting an interview. The replies were very polite and they did not actually say you are too old but that was the message."

"I took it very badly at first. My wage went from £250 to £54 a week, but now I feel well. I did my stint under a heavy pressure. That is all over and my health is a lot better for it," he said.

He applied to Beamish for a job under a Manpower Services Commission scheme working for six months as a uniformed assistant in a re-created Cooperative Wholesale Society store of the 1920s.

"I probably got the job because at home we had a CWS Jubilee book published in 1925. I was able to remember bits I read in it and trotted them out. I think they were quite startled."

"Amazing to think that a job



Mr Scott trying out the cab of the museum tram on his way to a job after a year on the dole.

might depend on an old book that has been hanging around for years on a shelf."

Mr Scott considers himself lucky compared with many of his fellow workmates. He owns his home. His wife, Kathleen, has a job.

He has a good slab of redundancy still in the bank and he works occasionally as a

limousine driver for a funeral director. How much that brings in depends on the local mortality rate.

If he passes his tram test and gets a permanent job at the museum he will be a happy man. Although he says that if a fortune teller had ever told him he would end up as a

driver of antique trams he would have refused to pay.

Even when he was a boy he never dreamed of being a driver of trams or buses but it would be a living. He said: "People in a full-time job do not know how lucky they are. But we are ticking along just now, quite canny."

Private detectives

Call for statutory controls

A private detective has called for the Government to introduce legislation controlling the activities of private investigators.

Mr Gary Murray, of Euro-Tec Private Investigators, based in Egham, Surrey, said he was worried that consumers and business organizations in Britain, who use private investigators, had no protection against unscrupulous operators.

He claims that during 17 years as a private detective, he

has seen the law broken many times.

He alleges that many organizations employ convicted criminals and that criminals have worked as investigators for government departments.

He claims that investigators have been involved in plots to kidnap, murder and smuggle guns.

"Self-regulation must be avoided at all costs. That will only serve to provide status and protection to certain individuals, who have them-

selves engaged in illegal and unethical acts," he said yesterday.

Mr Murray has written to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, expressing his concern.

He has asked them to bring private investigators under the auspices of the Office of Fair Trading and to charge an annual subscription for a registration certificate.

Nissan in summer staff drive

Nissan is recruiting temporary workers for its Sunderland car plant to boost production in the summer months (Daniel Ward writes).

Competition for the 48 short-term jobs has been fierce with more than 1,300 of the local unemployed applying in the hope of the four-month job becoming permanent.

The use of seasonal workers in the car industry is unheard of, although it is a well established practice in North-east food and toy industries.

The huge peak in UK sales in August makes it attractive for Nissan to make output to about 3,000 cars a month in June and July rather than achieve the planned output of 24,000 Bluebird models for 1987 at a constant rate of 2,000 a month.

The latest 48 Nissan workers will have to prove their physical skills, flexibility and team spirit in a series of tests and monitored discussions.

Tree-feller in £7,000 fine appeal

A man who was fined £7,000 after pleading guilty to cutting down 14 trees is to appeal against the sentence which is almost double the previous record for the offence.

Mr Derek Hickman, a businessman, was fined £500 a tree at Norwich Magistrates' Court earlier this month.

The maximum fine for illegally chopping trees in Norfolk is £2,000 and Mr Hickman tangled with the law after ordering 14 oak, ash and pine trees to be felled last year at a woodland property.

Mr Hickman bought the two-acre property for £29,000 last May but claimed that his solicitors, Robert Stevens and Co, of Norwich, failed to inform him that the site was covered by a tree preservation order.

He also intends to pursue a damages claim against them.

Mr Hickman said: "I honestly believe I've been made an example of. Most of the trees were very small and I left all the big ones apart from five, two of which were rotten."

Mr Brian Yates, prosecuting solicitor for Broadland District Council, declined to say whether the severity of the sentence had surprised him.

"The only judge who has expressed an opinion on the matter was Lord Denning, who said some years ago that anything larger than three and a half centimetres in diameter was worth preserving. Some of these trees were large conifers, while others were smallish oaks or ash about six and a half centimetres or so in diameter," he said.

"This area has a lot of woodland in it. There are some large commercial plantations, but also a lot of residential districts with housing scattered amidst small and medium sized woods."

Previously, the highest fine was the £4,500 imposed on a West Country businessman last year who felled 200 trees, according to the Forestry Commission. It said: "At last it appears that magistrates are appreciating the seriousness of illegal felling, which we welcome."

Law Report January 26 1987 Consumer rules defence

Riley v Webb and Others
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Macpherson
[Judgment January 22]

Defendants had to do some positive act in order to satisfy the criteria of taking all reasonable precautions and exercising all due diligence to avoid the commission of an offence in contravention of section 2(1)(b) of the Consumer Protection Act 1986 of failing to comply with regulations. That was a strict test established on the balance of probabilities.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in allowing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated from the decision of the Holyhead Justices on September 17 1985 that the defendants had proved they had taken all reasonable precautions in ensuring the pencils they sold complied with the requirements of regulations 2(1)(a) and (b) of the Pencils and Graphic Instruments (Safety) Regulations (SI 1974 No 226).

Mr Robin Spencer for the prosecutor; Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said the defendants owned as S. Webb & Son as wholesalers of fancy goods and toys in Anglesey. They employed about 50 staff and dealt in about 10,000 lines.

In August 1982 the defendants sold a number of "secondary" pencils which contained, *inter alia*, pellets.

The secondary sets were manufactured in Hong Kong and had been supplied to the defendants by L. D. Abraham (Toys) Ltd, merchant importers in London, who had been reliable suppliers to the defendants over a period of 15 years.

The pencils breached the regulations in that they contained six times the permitted level of soluble hexavalent chromium and 26 times the permitted level of lead.

Because of the passage of time the importers were not prosecuted.

At the trial it was suggested by the prosecution that the defendants should have carried out their own random sampling or asked for a specific assurance or made a specific inquiry as to whether there was compliance with the individual regulation.

Sampling was not practical in this case as it would have eliminated the profit on the items.

In March 1971 the defendants had received a letter from their suppliers confirming their "hot food for consumption off the premises".

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Astronomy: 1

Technology sheds new light on birthplace of stars

There was euphoria in Edinburgh recently at a celebration of an event that took place thousands of miles away, on top of the 14,000-ft Mauna Kea mountain in Hawaii.

The occasion was "First Light", or the moment when the first observation was made of a distant star by a remarkable new type of instrument called the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope.

Its main task will be to find "the stellar nurseries" of the universe which are the birthplaces of stars in our own Milky Way and other galaxies, but that are hidden from the view of other telescopes.

As these newborn stars are formed within vast, thick, dark, dusty clouds punctuating the sky, their early evolution is veiled to optical telescopes.

The new instrument lifts the veil on the stellar nurseries by a technological sleight of hand.

ASTOUNDING discoveries have come from twentieth-century astronomers because of the invention of ground-based and satellite instruments that extend their observations from visible light to include emissions of radio waves, gamma rays, X-rays, ultraviolet and infrared radiation.

The James Clerk Maxwell Telescope increases the ability of the scientists to "see" across the sky by detecting millimetre waves.

From laboratory studies, astronomers know these radio signals would contain the signature of certain types of molecules that exist in the dusty clouds of galaxies.

The substances the astronomers will seek include carbon monoxide and silicon oxide, and also more complicated molecules, including the alcohols, formaldehyde, and formic acid. Detecting the signals is another matter.

Mauna Kea was chosen by the scientists from the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, as the best site in the world for the unique equipment they designed for detecting and analysing millimetre radio waves.

The bleak conditions are hostile to astronomers, but near-perfect for astronomy. Moreover, when the scientists go hunting for millimetre radio waves, there is no need to wait until it gets dark to catch the twinkling emissions from a star.

However, the new telescope is never exposed to the elements. When the observatory opens, a special plastic membrane still covers the telescope.

Incoming rays fall on a 15-metre aluminium mirror,

There are pockets of excitement in British science, in spite of cuts. In astronomy, two powerful new telescopes will enable scientists to probe more deeply into the evolution of the universe. In the first of two articles, Pearce Wright, Science Editor, describes how the British plan to stay at the forefront of the oldest and perhaps most seductive field of research.

The receiving mirror focuses the signal on to a small one which, in turn, directs the concentrated beam down through a hole in the centre of the aluminium bowl.

Beneath the bowl is a receiver cabin. The beam is deflected to one of three instruments built with experts from the Cambridge University Radio Observatory, Queen Mary College, London, and Lancaster Polytechnic.

"First light" was a test of the receivers. They were looking for signals from a known object in part of the constellation of Orion.

The start of the main research programmes at the observatory begins in two months. The subsequent flow of scientific papers, the hallmark of success, should begin by the end of the year.

Equal excitement is mounting among optical astronomers for the other telescope, that is six months away from completion.

The instrument is the William Herschel Telescope. It is also on a mountain plateau, on La Palma in the Canaries. It has been built by the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

Tomorrow: The next generation.

Telling lesson for drivers who drink

By David Cross

In the 24 hours before crashing into a signpost near Southampton last May, Gavin, a roofer, aged 19, had drunk at least 12 pints of beer and three whiskies.

He was probably over the legal limit for most of the time he was driving his girl friend's car that day between his home, his friend's house and several local public houses.

A month later he was again tested for drink-driving after leaving a public house, and again he was found to be breaking the law.

"How do you feel about it now?" Mr John Cook, a probation officer in Hampshire, asked. "I think I was a prat," Gavin replied. He now sticks to Coca Cola and orange juice when he goes out drinking with his mates.

Although he lost his job as a builder and was banned from driving for three years when he was convicted of drink-driving offences, Gavin is one of the successes to emerge from a novel education course being run for convicted drink-drivers by Hampshire probation service.

Each week, small groups of offenders, some of them accompanied by their friends or spouses, gather in the games room of the Southampton probation office to recall the day they fell foul of the law and to learn more about the financial, social and medical implications of drinking and driving.

After a short game to make them feel at home, they are shown slides and videos to illustrate points like the relatively low levels of alcohol needed to impair reactions and the ways in which excess alcohol can damage parts of

the body. After each two-hour session they are given notes to amplify what they have learnt and set some homework for the next session.

The main aim of the eight-week course is to give offenders the information they need to encourage them to change their patterns of drinking, Mr Cook, who began the first course three years ago, said.

"I saw people being punished by the courts but in no better state to avoid further drink-driving offences when they regained their licences. The courts were slapping their wrists but not doing much else to discourage them."

More than 100 offenders have completed the course and of these only five have been convicted again on alcohol-related offences.

"We are very gratified by the results of the courses and the response we are getting from drivers who are ordered to attend them. I am sure they are better and safer drivers by the time they get their licences back."

Attendance at the course, which is in addition to other penalties like a fine, is mandatory on those selected by local magistrates. Any session missed has to be made up by the offender on the next course.

Most of those ordered on to courses are either young or those with high alcohol levels at the time of their arrest.

The Southampton scheme, which has already been adopted by probation officers in Portsmouth, is still in its pilot stage. But the Government is studying the idea and may introduce similar courses for drunken drivers in other parts of the country.

Footpath survey to 'fill gap'

A lengthy and detailed survey of the labyrinthine weavings of Devon's public footpaths is to be made in an attempt to solve the riddle of the county's "missing" bridges.

Although old maps and records of Devon disclose that there should be 352 footbridges along its 3,000 miles of public footpaths, a count ordered 18 months ago has been able to find only 157.

While a majority of the bridges that remain are either stone or concrete, most of the old wooden bridges have long since rotted and collapsed or been swept away in floods.

If the council's amenities and countryside committee was alarmed to learn about this state of affairs, it was positively startled to hear from the chief assistant engineer, Mr Malcolm Baker, that it would cost £750,000 to replace those victims of time and the elements.

The committee is accustomed to administering special project budgets that rarely top £5,000.

Now it has ordered local officers the length and breadth of the county to find out how many of the bridges service footpaths that are still used before ordering replacements.

Mr Baker acknowledged that this presents the council with a conundrum because the role of a public path can be badly compromised if a vital bridge is missing.

"Clearly, if a bridge isn't there the footpath can't be used; but whether they fell into disuse because the bridges were missing I can't say," he said.

East London M-way link abandoned

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

The Department of Transport has finally, and formally, abandoned plans to build the M12 east of London.

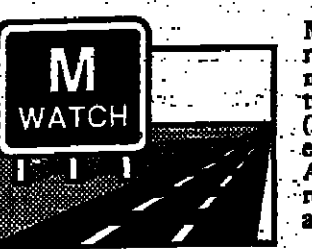
The road was planned to run from the M11 at South Woodford to the junction of the A12 and M25 near Brentwood in Essex.

At one stage it was seen as a link between London and the proposed Stansted airport on the Essex coast. But with the decision to develop Stansted airport rather than Magin, the M12 proposals were withdrawn from the national roads programme in 1985.

Major roadworks until next Monday.

London and South-east

A40(M) Marylebone flyover: Closed for repair work until end of February. Diversions operating. M11 London: New road layout and reconstruction work continues at Redbridge roundabout.



M2 Kent: Contraflow between junctions 5 and 6 (Sittingbourne/Faversham), and single-line traffic between junctions 6 and 7 (Faversham/Canterbury).

M25 Surrey: Exit slip road from clockwise carriageway at junction 13 (Staines), being widened. M275 Hampshire: Flyover construction between junction with M27 and Rudmore roundabout, Portsmouth.

Midlands

M5 Hereford and Worcester: One lane open southbound and two northbound between junctions 5 and 6 (Droitwich/Worcester North). Also southbound entry slip at junction 5 and southbound exit slip at junction 6 closed.

M5 West Midlands: Lane restrictions and some overnight carriageway closures between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove/M50 South Wales).

A1 Nottinghamshire: Lane restrictions north of Newark at Markham Moor.

North

M1 South Yorkshire: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (A57 Worksop and A630 Rotherham). Slip road closures at junctions 31 and 32 (M18 interchange). Till end of this month. M61 Blacow Bridge: Construction work at M6 interchange. Lane closures both directions.

M63 Greater Manchester: Link road from A34 to M63 southbound reduced to a single lane only.

M63 Barton Bridge, Greater Manchester: Major widening scheme. Lane restrictions and slip road closures between junctions 1 and 7 (Eccles interchange/A56 Stretford). Severe delays at times.

A1 North Yorkshire: Lane closures north and southbound at Walsford approaching Wetherby roundabout.

A1 West Yorkshire: Major repair work with lane closures and a contraflow at the Brotherton bypass. There will also be some slip road closures, and diversions will be signed at Markham Moor.

Wales and the West

M4 South Wales: Signing and coning work on both carriageways between junctions 24 and 29 (Newport/Cardiff).

Scotland

M8

WORLD SUMMARY

Dhaka protests as Parliament opens

Dhaka — More than 50 opposition politicians were arrested and 200 other activists wounded as police fired tear gas during a demonstration in Dhaka at the weekend marking the opening of Parliament's winter session (Ahmed Fazi writes).

At least a dozen vehicles, including police vans, were set on fire or overturned by angry demonstrators demanding the resignation of President Ershad.

A police spokesman said yesterday that Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of the Nationalist Party, the main organizer of the protests, had been released from detention. Fourteen other leaders were also freed as students demonstrated for the second day, burning street cars and halting traffic.

Meanwhile, 100 opposition members stormed out of Parliament's inaugural session as General Ershad began to speak.

Too hot at pole

Oslo — Norwegian scientists are increasingly concerned for the safety of the first South Pole expedition to be led by a woman, Miss Monica Kristensen (Tony Samstag writes).

Last week unusually warm weather in the Antarctic forced the expedition to travel at night, because daytime temperatures of 6 deg. Centigrade were too hot for their huskies. But now, 500 miles from their goal, the expedition faces temperatures of minus 45 and below, just as the journey reaches its most gruelling phase.

Tanker ablaze

Flushing (Reuters) — A fully-loaded Greek tanker was ablaze and leaking burning petrol off the Belgian and Dutch coast yesterday after firemen failed to smother the flames.

The 18,204-tonne Olympic Dream was in collision with the Liberian-registered August Thyssen in fog off Flushing. The collision ruptured one of the tanker's 23 compartments, causing petrol to ignite and spill into the sea. The damaged compartment holds 264,000 gallons.

Madrid student fury

Madrid — Student leaders have called for a continuation today of the national boycott of classes and a demonstration in Madrid's central Puerta del Sol plaza tomorrow, after violent clashes here on Friday in which one girl was seriously wounded by a bullet (Harry Debelius writes).

The two principal student organizations acted separately for the resignation of the Interior Minister, Señor José Barrionuevo, as newspapers criticized the way the police handled the situation on Friday, when fights broke out.

The students' basic demands are for reduction or elimination of all tuition fees, including those at university level; unlimited access to university studies; and abolition of university entrance examinations.

Rebel in waiting

Madrid (Reuters) — General Frank Vargas, the Ecuador air force leader freed from jail last week after paratroopers kidnapped President León Febres Cordero, has said he would stand for president if Señor Cordero resigned. "I don't think Cordero will reach the end of his mandate," he told *El País* newspaper, which said that the general, convicted of trying to overthrow the Government last year, was hiding on the outskirts of Quito.

After the Capitol ..

Washington — Twenty of President Reagan's friends have bought a \$2.5 million (£1.6 million) estate in Bel Air, Los Angeles, for the President and his wife in their retirement (Michael Binyon writes). But the White House says that the Reagans have not yet decided whether to live there. Mr Reagan, whose money is in a blind trust, will pay back the cost after leaving office; he has always said he would retire to southern California.

Spain and Italy agree

Madrid — The Prime Ministers of Spain and Italy, Señor Felipe González, below, and Signor Bettino Craxi, have claimed "an extraordinary degree of political accord" on affairs relating to the EEC, Mediterranean security and the democratization of Central America, during a two-day meeting which ended in Palma de Maiorca on Saturday (Harry Debelius writes).

The two agreed that a common agricultural policy was needed as a basic instrument of the EEC, and they also discussed the formation of a "support group" to facilitate peace in the Mediterranean area.



EEC ministers weigh risks of US trade war

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

With six days left to avert a damaging trade war with the United States, EEC foreign ministers today will weigh the risks of confrontation against the benefits of defending principles.

The 12 ministers will be briefed on progress made at weekend talks in Washington between two members of the European Commission and Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative.

Mr Willy de Clercq and Mr Frans Andriessen, the Trade and Farm Commissioners, flew back to Brussels yesterday expressing cautious optimism. "The differences are narrower, I believe we can find a solution," Mr Andriessen said.

They planned to reveal the

details first to Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, at a meeting last night. Belgium holds the EEC presidency.

The Commission, which has the decision-making responsibility, will ask ministers whether the gap between the two sides' proposals justifies the risk of a spiral of retaliatory tariffs.

The US plans to fire the first shot on or soon after Saturday if no agreement is reached. The EEC has already threatened reprisals.

Many diplomats believe that lack of time makes peace more, not less, likely. When EEC-US trade wars have been threatened in the past, it has taken an imminent deadline to focus political minds.

Mulroney starts tour as contract scandal erupts

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, has begun an eight-day trip to Italy and Africa, leaving behind in Ottawa the worst scandal to hit his 28-month-old administration.

The affair took a new turn at the weekend with reports that a former minister in Mr Mulroney's Conservative Cabinet, Mr André Bissanette, and Mr Bissanette's wife, Anita, may have pocketed at least \$Can 400,000 (£190,000) from a land speculation deal.

The Prime Minister dismissed Mr Bissanette a week ago from his post of Minister of State for Transport after learning about a series of land transactions in Mr Bis-

sonette's home town of Saint Jean, Quebec. Oerlikon Buhle, a Swiss arms manufacturer, agreed last January to pay nearly \$Can 3 million for a 100-acre piece of land which only 11 days earlier sold for \$Can 800,000.

Three months later the company, through its Canadian subsidiary, Oerlikon Aerospace, won a billion-dollar contract to construct a low-level air defence system for Canadian forces in Europe. The company is building a plant on the land to manufacture components for the defence system.

According to a report here, Mr Mulroney has evidence that Mr Bissanette and his wife "profited personally" from the land sale. Mrs

Bissanette was alleged to have received \$Can 400,000 and deposited it in a bank account.

Other reports said that Mr Bissanette may have received \$Can 100,000 from the deal.

The *Toronto Star* reported that a Saint Jean speculator passed \$Can 970,000 of the amount received from Oerlikon on to Mr Bissanette's friend and president of the local Tory Riding Association, Mr Normand Ouellette. That money was allegedly shared by Mr Ouellette, Mr Bissanette and Mr Bissanette's wife, and possibly others.

Mr Bissanette has denied any wrongdoing in the case. Oerlikon Buhle, for its part, has begun a civil action to recover \$Can 2.1 million from Mr Ouellette.

In a statement issued in Zurich, Oerlikon Buhle denied that it paid bribes to obtain the defence contract. Nobody in Canada has accused the company of paying bribes.

Mr Mulroney was under fire in the Commons all last week from opposition MPs who demanded a full public inquiry into what one member called "political corruption in the highest places." He doggedly resisted the demands.

Answering a flood of questions on Friday, Mr Mulroney angrily told the Opposition at one point: "You don't want facts, you want a circus." He in turn was accused of employing a "double, hypocritical standard" by allegedly allowing his staff to leak information about Mr Bissanette to the media, while refusing to discuss details of the case in Parliament on the pretext that it was under police investigation.

Mr Mulroney, who arrived in Rome at the weekend, was scheduled to have a private audience today with the Pope and confer with President Cossiga and Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister.

Tomorrow he flies to Zimbabwe for a long-planned, three-day visit and on Friday he begins a three-day visit to Senegal.

Mr Bissanette is the sixth minister to be dismissed from the Cabinet or resign under circumstances embarrassing to Mr Mulroney, since the Tories took office in September 1984.

Battle rages for key city of Basra

Iran's push aims to topple Saddam

From Robert Fisk, Tehran

As the leaders of most of the Arab world were gathering in Kuwait yesterday amid deepening concern at Iraq's losses in the Gulf war, Iranian troops and Revolutionary Guards were still going all-out to smash the perimeter defences of the city of Basra and precipitate the downfall of President Saddam Hussein.

In a propaganda exercise clearly timed to coincide with the start of today's Islamic summit in Kuwait, the Iranians — who have scornfully refused to attend the conference — are showing off the spoils of their latest victory around Basra to foreign correspondents, displaying hundreds of Iraqi prisoners of war and urging Iraqi dissidents in Baghdad to overthrow their President.

The Iranian message to the outside world — and especially to the Arab potentates gathering in the vulnerable city of Kuwait, where the gunfire of the battle for Basra is only too audible at the conference centre — is simple: President Saddam Hussein is losing the war and Arab leaders would do well to abandon their support for his regime while there still remains a chance of rebuilding their relations with Iran.

Indeed, the Iranians now believe that President Saddam might fall without the necessity of an Iranian capture of Basra since his military predicament is self-evident. President Saddam's task in Kuwait will be to persuade his Arab brothers that this is untrue.

In Iran, war weariness has been replaced in recent days by public anger at Iraqi air raids on civilian areas of Iranian cities. Eighty-five people, all of them reported to be civilians, were buried in Qom at the weekend after Wednesday's air raid, when the Iraqis chose to attack the holy city where Ayatollah Khomeini has his home.

This new mood of resolution among those who have not always supported the war has been reinforced by President Reagan's latest condemnation of "Iran's seizure of Iraqi territory", a statement which, in Iranian eyes, has only served to confirm that Washington has given its wholehearted support to Baghdad.

That other recent American involvement in the Gulf — Mr Reagan's secret sale of US weapons to Iran — naturally elicits no comment at all, although leaders of the Revolutionary Guards Corps are said to have been enraged at the revelation that the weapons came via Israel, the nation which is intimately linked in their minds to the American-Iraqi "conspiracy" which has caused so much suffering in Iran.

Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, who was involved

War weariness has been replaced by public anger at Iraqi air raids

lie in the coffin behind the driver. Local newspaper reports of badly gassed combatants, demanding from their hospital beds to be returned to the front line to continue the struggle are in vivid contrast to the brightly lit shops and relaxed atmosphere of Tehran where the middle classes appear almost divorced from the war.

There is a growing feeling here, nevertheless, that fundamental and permanent changes are under way in the Gulf, with the titanic conflict — like most wars of its kind — growing ever more brutal as its end seems ever further away. Iraqi planes raided Qom again on Saturday as well as Tabriz and Isfahan, reportedly killing another 14 civilians and wounding 67 others. The daily death toll outside Basra is said to be hundreds, and Iranians have already crossed

in Mr Robert McFarlane's secret visit to Tehran last year, has been visiting the war front opposite Basra, presumably anxious to re-establish his military credentials.

The human cost of the war — 15,000 Iranians are estimated to have died in the latest two Iraqi offensives — is evident even in the capital, where ambulances can be seen daily carrying the war dead from the airport, each vehicle bearing a photograph of the young soldier or Revolutionary Guard whose remains

at least three of the Iraqis' five fortification lines on the eastern side of the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

Yet the reasons for Iraq's shift of military policy, from attacks on industrial to civilian targets, remains a mystery. Before the Iranian "Karbala 5" offensive around Basra, the Iraqi Air Force had concentrated its assaults on Iranian oil refineries, telecommunications and power stations.

Until two weeks ago, there were countrywide power cuts of six hours a day in Iran, a serious shortage of refined oil and a significant drop in industrial output. Today the power cuts last scarcely two hours, Iran's oil exports are close to its Opec quota of 1.6 million barrels a day, and public support for the war has been rekindled.

Iraqi tactics in a recent night raid on Isfahan demonstrated a grim combination of pragmatism and ruthlessness. Eyewitnesses say that the Iraqi jets — flying at 40,000 ft, too high for Iran's air defences — circled the city to bomb the civilian areas to the north but carefully avoided hitting the great mosque and the shrines.

For their part, the Iranians have declared their intention to allow the four principal Shia holy shrines in Iraq — including Najaf and Karbala — to remain free cities, unsubjected to attack. The principle is easy to follow; Iraqis wishing to avoid the danger of Iranian air or missile attacks should move to the Shia centres for safety.

In Tehran, however, the inhabitants seem almost immune from the war. Television film of the Iranian

capture of the first three lines of Iraqi defences near the Fish Lake outside Basra might have come from another world in a city where there is no blackout, where food stores are filled with fish, fruit and vegetables, and where the rigid rules of female *hijab* have been, if only unofficially, relaxed.

Women can again be seen wearing lipstick, showing hair in front of their scarves, and sometimes dressed in skirts halfway to the knee.

This may not be a sign of the times — the spring usually sees a relaxing of fundamentalist rules — but there is certainly a mood of confidence in Tehran.

Señor Suárez-Masón, a former Argentine general, accused of taking part in the torture and killing of thousands of Argentine left-wingers in the 1970s, was arrested in a San Francisco suburb at the weekend after a nationwide search, the United States Marshals Service said.

Señor Suárez-Masón, on the run since November 1985, south of San Francisco, officials said.

Inspector Larry Homenick, who supervises the Marshals Service's international operations, said Señor Suárez-Masón had been hunted in the USSince November 1985.

For part of that time, he said, the former general had lived in New York City, where he was last seen during the Christmas holidays. Inspector Homenick said he was also believed to have spent some time in Miami.

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Señor Suárez-Masón, who was arrested on

Philippine rebels shun talks as protests over killing of farmers grow

From David Watts, Manila

Philippine communist insurgents say they will not resume peace negotiations with President Aquino's Government, which today faces a big protest over the killing of 15 demonstrators last week. The killings were the first such deaths since Mrs Aquino took power a little over a year ago and have shocked and angered many Filipinos.

As the communist negotiators disappeared from view and cleared their offices in Manila of all papers and files, a series of left-wing, cause-orientated groups prepared a "rally of indignation" for today and said that protests aimed at disrupting transport and business would continue to the end of the month. Mrs Aquino instituted similar protests which led to the overthrow of the Marcos regime.

The shootings have not only crushed the hope of further progress on a ceasefire with the communists but also caused the resignation of Mr Jose Diokno, a lawyer leading a commission of inquiry into military abuses by the Marcos regime, and more than half of the commission's members. Mr Diokno's withdrawal of support is a significant blow to Mrs Aquino, whatever her responsibility for the shooting by Marines guarding the Malacañang palace.

In a short resignation letter, Mr Diokno and his four colleagues said the Government's "pronouncements on human rights have not been validated by its actions on certain incidents". Mr Diokno's daughter, Maria, had already resigned as a member of the panel negotiating with the communists.

Cardinal Jaime Sin, in an address yesterday in Manila cathedral, said: "We can say that the lives that were lost were lost in great measure because the ages-long issue of land reform has never been confronted." Calling on the Government to give urgent attention to the problem, he said it had given hope that it would sincerely seek solutions and move to decisive action.

Mrs Aquino's family owns one of the biggest plantations on the island of Luzon, north of Manila.

After appealing for national unity and promising justice for the victims, Mrs Aquino celebrated her 54th birthday quietly with her family yesterday.

"I would like to assure not only the families and the victims but also the entire nation

that justice will be given," she said at a rally held on Saturday to build support for ratification of the country's new constitution, which will be submitted to a vote on February 2.

Marcos loyalists at a Manila rally burnt effigies of Mrs Aquino, Cardinal Sin and the Chief of Staff, General Fidel Ramos, together with copies of the draft constitution.

An inquiry into Thursday's shootings at the Mendiola Bridge, 300 yards from the presidential palace, begins today and will have a whole series of questions to deal with.

The demonstration and its aftermath was irregular in many ways. Normally there is a barbed-wire barricade preventing protesters from advancing on to the bridge, the scene of many anti-Marcos demonstrations, either tear gas or water cannon rather than live bullets is used, warnings are given and negotiations take place before any decisive action against a march.

None of these things took place and, perhaps more significant, bullets recovered from bodies were not confined to the type used in the Armalites issued to the Marines.

Leading article, page 13



Supporters of former President Marcos demonstrating in Manila yesterday against the draft constitution which is being submitted for national approval by Mrs Aquino.

Student arrested in China for tip to Western press

From Robert Gieves, Peking

The expulsion of one of China's best-known writers from the Chinese Communist Party and the arrest of a Tianjin student, who allegedly gave intelligence information to a Western journalist, at the weekend has shown that the country's five-week-old campaign against Western liberal influences is continuing apace.

Yesterday the New China News Agency reported that Mr Lin Jie, a university student from the port city of Tianjin, had been "arrested for his secret collusion with, and providing intelligence to, Mr Lawrence MacDonal, an American who has worked in Peking as a correspondent for the French news agency, Agence France-Presse, since the beginning of 1985."

The agency's Peking bureau said in a statement: "Agence France-Presse states that it knows nothing about all accusations against Mr MacDonal and only learnt about this from a dispatch of the New China News Agency."

But the official Chinese news agency reported that "conclusive evidence" had been obtained by the Tianjin State Security Bureau through an investigation, but it did not provide any details either about the investigation or the arrest.

Also at the weekend, party

officials announced the expulsion from the party ranks of Mr Lin Binyan, a former investigative reporter for the *People's Daily* and the author of books about official corruption.

The announcement said in part that Mr Lin "made speeches and wrote articles on many occasions in violation of the party constitution, discipline and resolutions, negating the four cardinal principles of adhering to the socialist road, the people's democratic dictatorship, leadership by the Communist Party and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung's Thought and trumpeting for bourgeois liberalization."

Mr Liu, who had recently returned to Peking from Hainan Island, declined to answer reporters' questions.

Observers in Peking said that both developments indicated that party officials, possibly including Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's effective ruler, wanted to send a clear message to the Chinese people that deviations from the "socialist path" and too much contact with foreigners would not be tolerated.

Yesterday a signed article in the *People's Daily* demanded that a more rigorous campaign against "bourgeois liberalization" be implemented.

Indo-Pakistan conflict

Leaders seek ways to lower tension

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Both India and Pakistan yesterday publicly committed themselves to negotiations to reduce the tensions between them. Diplomats are now working to establish an appropriate forum for the talks.

In Pakistan, President Zia showed his reluctance over the border confrontation by leaving for Kuwait and the Islamic summit. In India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, told the Pakistan Ambassador, while waiting on the airport tarmac to greet visiting heads of state for the Africa Fund summit, that he was anxious to reduce the temperature.

Mr Gandhi also announced at the weekend that Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh would immediately take from him the defence portfolio.

Mr Singh had, as Finance Minister, developed into a major political force through his reputation for incorruptibility and providing the cutting edge for Mr Gandhi's economic policies. He had also offended a lot of people by his impartial attack on tax-dodgers.

By making him Defence Minister, Mr Gandhi has reduced his influence and also that of Mr Arun Singh, the Minister of State for Defence.

War could help both Gandhi and Zia

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

The Indian sub-continent passed a highly nervous weekend, with those on both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border half expecting to wake up to the sounds of an air-raid warning and the news that actual shooting had broken out once again.

While it seems unlikely that either side really thinks it could benefit from war, the

● The seductive effect of the Falklands factor ●

seductive effect of the Falklands factor could favour both Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan.

Mr Gandhi, for example, is now suffering his lowest level of popularity since his accession to power, virtually by universal acclamation, 28 months ago. He has been severely criticized for his attacks on the Congress Party and bureaucracy and his failure to bring peace in Punjab or Sri Lanka.

At the same time, the worsening situations in Tripura, Darjeeling and Tamil Nadu show the fissiparous tendencies of the country at their most dramatic. A war could excite internal cohesion and speedily reverse the present divisiveness. It could also help his party in the coming important state elections in Kerala, Kashmir, Haryana and West Bengal.

For General Zia, too, the prospect of war successfully dealt with could do some good. The non-parliamentary opposition, led by Miss Benazir Bhutto, has been saying some extremely harsh things about the military competence of the Pakistan armed forces.

While the country has suffered 10 years of army rule, its startled inhabitants have witnessed the seizure and permanent occupation by Indian forces of the Siachen glacier in the frozen far north of Kashmir. However you interpret the map and the various peace treaties arising out of previous wars between the two, the Siachen seems to be well inside the Pakistan side of the undesignated line of control.

"What is the good of an Army that can't defend Pakistan's own territory," Miss Bhutto says. Then again, the perception of an external threat would counter the centrifugal forces at work within the country and intensify loyalty to the regime.

The frustration of the opposition is manifested in grow-

ing campaigns for states' rights. Anti-government sentiments are expressed in demonstrations of opposition to Punjab's domination and in favour of Sindh or Baluch nationalism.

The Indians go even further than this and suggest that General Zia's opportunism will yet drive him to a military adventure, which could install him as the soldier-saint who restored the Muslim-dominated state of Kashmir to its appropriate place in Islamic Pakistan.

The evidence of a growing Muslim fundamentalism in the Kashmir valley, and of a certain pro-Pakistan sentiment might encourage Pakistanis to feel they would be welcomed in the valley. At the same time, there is possibly a fear that the Indian Army might not have the same kind of grassroots support in Punjab as they had during previous conflicts, thanks to the still persisting effects of the military storming of the Golden Temple of Amritsar in 1984.

In pursuit of this thought, an unnamed "defence analyst" briefed the Indian news agencies last week outlining India's fears and depicting the kind of scenario that General Zia's forces might follow. If the source was as rumoured General Krishnaswami Sundarji, the army chief of staff, it shows that anti-Pakistan paranoia has reached alarmingly high levels.

The scenario drawn by the analyst showed the main Pakistani thrust coming in the

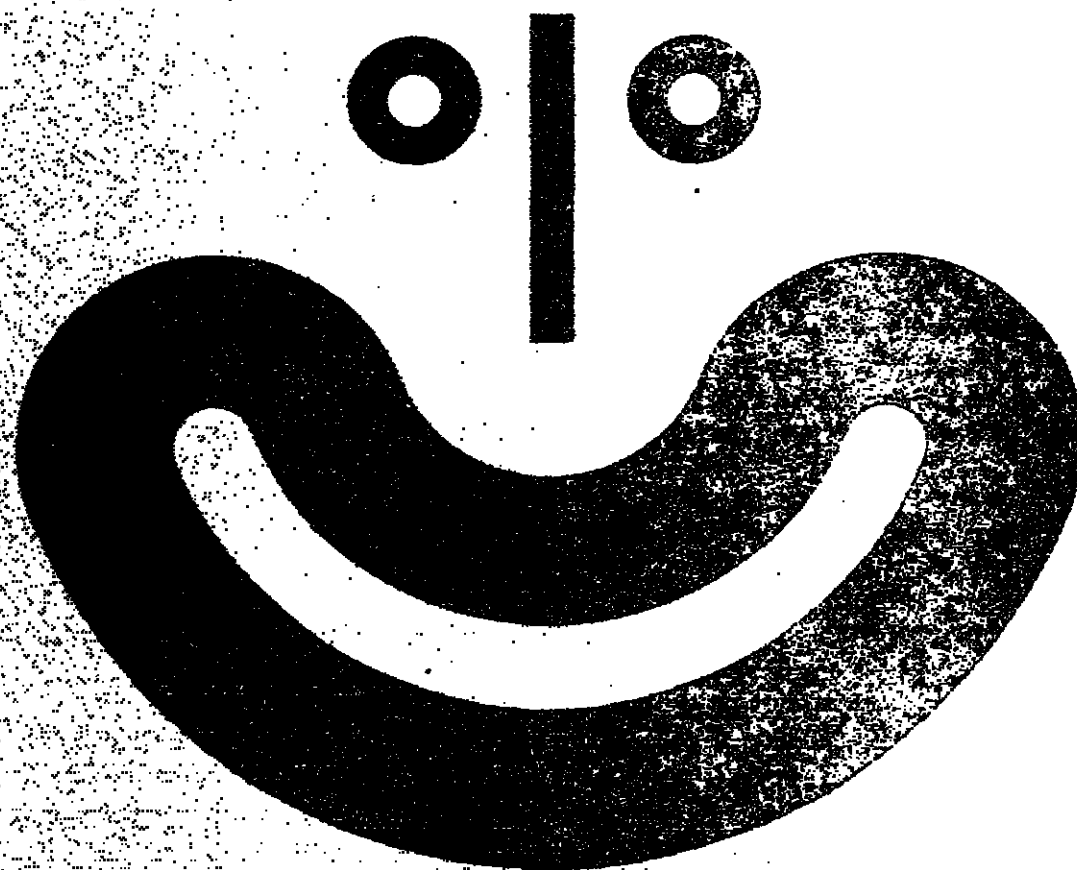
● Anti-Pakistan paranoia has reached ... high levels ●

Jammu area, where a salient of Pakistan territory almost cuts Kashmir off from the rest of the country. An attempt to make quick gains in this area would be accompanied by a move pre-empting an Indian riposte further south in the plains of Punjab and Rajasthan.

The arms Pakistan received and is receiving from the US to counter the Soviet threat from Afghanistan would be crucial in such a conflict, the Indian analyst said, and India's response could be interdicted by outside powers forcing a ceasefire.

In fact, given the apparent determination of Mr Gandhi not to back down now, it seems unlikely that such an adventure would avoid Indian retribution. And though the Indians may be slow to move, they have an Army twice the size of Pakistan's.

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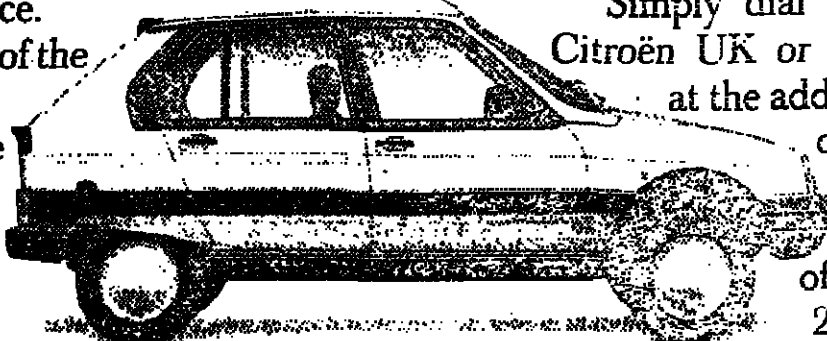
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THE ARTS

Passing mirrors

Historical writing often reveals as much about the present as the past. Historical films, however, invariably tell us much more. It was often impossible to deduce even which century was being depicted from the internal evidence of the film clips shown in Mel Smith's and Griff Rhys Jones's comic look at history through the cinema. The

TELEVISION

World According to Smith & Jones (ITV). It was quite easy to tell from hair-styles, cinema techniques etc. which decade the film was made in.

Things, however, were more confused in the clips of John Wayne's blissfully exorcising portrayal of Genghis Khan, since any shot of the Duke evoked another Hollywood mythic past — the West. (We were spared though his fast draw with his slow draw to announce as a centurion in *The Greatest Story Ever Told* that surely Max von Sydow was the son of Genghis.)

Present and past, though, were even more mixed up in *My Father's World* (Everyman, BBC1), which examined the old Menemite communities of Canada who wear 19th-century clothes, drive horse-drawn buggies and eschew even electricity. There are "historical" dissenters. One Menemite businessman had somehow got the Lord to buy him a Mercedes Benz — and he was not even a member of the revisionist "Black Bumper" sect which says that cars are all right if painted all black — bumpers too.

Simon Gray's delightful *Scores Two* film, *After Pilkington* (BBC2), was indeed a comedy thriller of bumper blackness in which the past of an Oxford English don (Bob Peck) popped up to spoil his present when his former child sweetheart turns out to be a murderous adult (Miranda Richardson). Gray himself seemed to be also playing with his past, returning to scenes found in his earlier work only to give them a new twist. We were even given a new variant of the student and supervisor running gag in *Betty* with a fat, essayless youth declaring his love for Peck.

Andrew Hislop



Kathleen Turner, her husky voice mellower and more flexible, with Romy Zada in *Camille*, and Richard Thomas (left) and John Lithgow in *The Front Page*

New light aimed at Broadway

Can one of American actors' dreams be coming true? Can they achieve fame and fortune in film and on the West Coast and artistic distinction on stages in the East? The 1986 cast-lists at New York and nearby theatres suggest an optimistic answer. Besides jet travel, the phenomenon most responsible for bi-coastal careers is the limited run.

Sigourney Weaver as Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* and Matthew Broderick in a new Horton Foote play are in previews: Off-Broadway. The teen idol Molly Ringwald just ventured successfully Off-Broadway. So did Brooke Shields last winter, while in the spring and summer Robert De Niro sold out houses at the Public Theater and moved to Broadway in Reinaldo Poved's *Cuba and His Teddy Bear*, which also featured Ralph Macchio of *The Karate Kid* and Burt Young, brother-in-law of "Rocky".

From stars to asterisks, stages have been aglow in several senses. Kathleen Turner's appearance in *Camille* at the Long Wharf Theatre in Connecticut, a regional house noted for transferring worthy productions to New York, sold out the run before the play opened. Nice for business, and even nicer to report that Miss Turner and Ron Daniels's production are worth the fuss.

Kathleen Turner's stage credits are few, making it all the braver for her to put her head on the theatrical block when, as a movie star, she has

THEATRE IN THE UNITED STATES

Holly Hill reports on the stars commuting between the film and the stages of the East

recently been declared America's sex goddess in major magazine cover stories. The famous husky voice sounds mellower in the theatre, stronger and more flexible. She moves awkwardly, an odd and touching counterpoint to her beauty, and an imperfection — or choice — which lends credibility to Marguerite's background. Most striking in her relationship with Armand, played with bestial charisma by Romy Zada, is the friendship which calls forth the best in both characters and which the actors develop with their allure in the background and their intelligence and feeling at the forefront. Miss Turner's complex Marguerite suggests that she has a Hedda, Arkadina, perhaps a Rosalind and Cleopatra ahead.

The *Camille* production is gorgeous, with frocks by Jess Goldstein which could make a woman want to put up with being trusted like a chicken to fit into them. There is talk of bringing the show to New York. I hope I am wrong, but I think there is

more of an audience here for Robert De Niro in an inferior play about dope dealers and addicts than for anyone in Miss Gem's superior drama. I shared a taxi from theatre to train-station with some theatre-lovers from New York who had come to Connecticut to see the star and the play, and they were crestfallen at not encountering a tear-jerking version of the story. I think that New York theatregoers may have become the provincials.

Meanwhile, back on the home front, the luminaries John Lithgow and Richard Thomas head the cast of *The Front Page*, the official opening production of the new regime of the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center. I am in the minority of critics who found Jerry Zaks's production, which propels the actors into farcical frenzy, disappointing. I share a widespread longing to keep the Beaumont open, however, and am willing to sit through much worse until they get it right.

The Circle Repertory Company has enjoyed its first success of the season with *The Early Girl*. A first play by the actress Caroline Kava, whose writing may equal her considerable performing talent, it is a gritty, humorous, sentimental piece about a small-town whorehouse. Making her New York stage debut, the movie starlet Demi Moore, as a teenager turned prostitute to support her baby, proves that behind her very

pretty face is an acute acting intelligence and strong stage presence.

A newcomer of exceptional promise is Annette Bening, heroine in *Coastal Disturbances*. She does not yet belong in this catalogue of film and television stars working in the theatre, but she is likely to soon, for she has all-American good looks and a face and voice like fluctuating weather reports. She plays a Manhattan photographer recovering from a love-affair at a New England beach, drawn to an almost ideally manly, sweet, handsome lifeguard persuasively played by Timothy Daly.

A highlight of this romantic comedy is a sequence in which the photographer, trying to evade her attraction to the lifeguard, babbles about dolphins and Atlantis while he — frustrated at not being able to make love to her — buries her in sand. It is the most amusingly and palpably erotic scene on the New York stage.

The playwright, Tina Howe, using the impressionistic technique most successful in her *Painting Churches*, creates a palette of love-relationships between the sexes and between parents and children with a cast of nine characters. Her focus in *Coastal Disturbances* is diffuse and the images do not always blend harmoniously, especially when the heroine's caddish lover appears, but the picture is luminously mounted by the director Carole Rothman and the designers Tony Straiges (sets), Dennis Parichy (lighting) and Susan Hilfery (costumes).



Shrewdly successful import: Grace Glover with Phil McCall

THEATRE IN SCOTLAND

The Hypochondriac
Royal Lyceum,
Edinburgh

It must say something about the human condition that perfectly straightforward jokes written 300 years ago can still have an audience rocking with laughter. Most of the successes in Hector MacMillan's broad Scots version of *Le Malade Imaginaire* at Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum are Molière's: the preposterous introductory speeches of the plodding suitor Thomas, and Toinette the maid's suggestion, as a bogus doctor, that Argan, the hypochondriac, should cut off his right arm because it is taking away the nourishment from his left.

But MacMillan proves once again that bewdy, rustering Scots is a splendid medium for translating Molière. Argan's obsession with his bowels, his desire to marry off his daughter Angélique to a doctor at all costs, his deceitful wife Beline and his knowing servant Toinette are all duly paraded before us. With the science and practice of medicine burgeoning in 18th-century Edinburgh, relocating the play there is also a happy transition.

Molière wrote for a tight-knit company whose traits and foibles he knew well. Little wonder then that two of the most successful performances of the evening come from Grace Glover as Toinette and Alison Peebles as Beline, both imported by Gerry Mulgrew, co-director with John Matthews, from his own company, Communicado. Miss Peebles, after a somewhat pedestrian opening — largely the fault of Phil

McCall's Argan, who never really gets going — brings a much-needed touch of style to the proceedings. Clad in shimmering black, she also brings the essential menace which is the grit for Molière's pearl, and which stops the whole thing sliding into no more than burlesque and buffoonery.

From that moment, the production gathers confidence and momentum. Burlesque and buffoonery there are to be sure, some of it hilarious as in Sandy West's grotesque super-Calvinist physician Purgon, much of it rather more workaday. But the directors never lose sight of Molière's deep-rooted suspicion of any kind of obsession, as well as his more obvious contempt for the medical profession — perhaps understandable in one for whom the profession in one way or another would do no more. This careful handling of the warring elements in the play means that Finlay Welsh is able to play the straight man of reason, Beralde, wholly convincingly without resource to clowning and without any loss of pace.

The trickiest parts of *The Hypochondriac* for any production will always be what to do with the odd interludes, prologue and epilogue, inserted for performance at court. This production — and here it is hard to tell where the writer stopped and the directors took over — integrates them into the action as street scenes at the carnival and goes for broke at the end as Argan is initiated into the medical profession with Masonic solemnity, complete with cupid, angels descending and any amount of mumbo-jumbo. The ending is a joyously camp affair which certainly delighted the first-night house and went a long way towards redeeming the lost opportunities at the beginning.

Robert Dawson
Scott

Star conviction

ROCK

Julian Cope
Central Hall,
Westminster

It has been four years since *The Teardrop Explodes* disintegrated, and prior to "World Shut Your Mouth", over five years since Julian Cope could be said to have had a stake in a decent hit. Watching the steady rise of his Liverpoolian contemporaries, Echo and the Bunnymen, and witnessing in *absentia* the flowering of the hand-me-down psychedelia movement that *The Teardrop Explodes* had in part inspired might have caused a less rampant egotist to lose heart.

But Cope is one of those types who knows he is a star whether or not anyone else agrees with him. As his first piece band times, "Trampolines", the singer, dressed in black leather, clambered on to his customized microphone stand-cum-climbing frame

like a would-be demagogue mounting a soap-box at Speakers' Corner.

His flock were not well served by the layout and acoustics of this hall, and visibility was further impaired by a film camera on a huge roving boom-arm, placed slap in front of the performers.

At the best moments the band harnessed the beat element of Sixties psychedelia to a powerful contemporary approach. The buzzy, stoned organ sound in "Saint Julian" and the freak-out ending of "Sunspots" coalesced with the elements of Morrissey misanthropy in "Elegant Chaos" to create a distinctive if rather lumbering style of mid-field Eighties rock. But other material, notably "The Greatness and Perfection of Love", though a pleasant enough tune, seemed to lack focus and, when Cope embarked on a programme of self-conscious melodramatics during "Reynard the Fox" and the bombastic climax of "The God Levitation", the old acid-casualty muse was painfully exposed.

David Sinclair

OPERA
Der Rosenkavalier
Covent Garden

This first revival of the 1984 Royal Opera *Rosenkavalier* is in many respects fresher than the original performances. Stephen Lawless has remounted the John Schlesinger production to bring a wealth of life into the beautiful but gaily sham sets by William Dudley; perhaps only the fricas among the servants in Act II still waits to be brought to the boil. There is also a totally new intimacy in the relationship between Ann Murray's Octavian and Felicity Lott's Marschallin, both of them interpretations not seen here before. And from Bernard Haitink in the pit there is a *Rosenkavalier* exposed but quite unusual clarity and mastery of complex texture.

The inevitable loss, of course, is one of glamour, and it does seem indeed a wealth of hand or neck is wasted. In her great monologue she almost persuaded one that this role is principally about acting with the voice, even if that means thinned tone and breaks into something near speech. She also projects a quite extraordinary proportion of the text.

So too does Miss Murray, while doing so in an altogether



Projecting a quite extraordinary proportion of the text: Ann Murray (left) and Felicity Lott

harmony, which in the finale turns into biting grotesquerie. In that first act Haitink is ably partnered in his search below the sheer by Miss Lott. She does not have the sumptuousness many will expect from a Marschallin, and it is a bit hard to have to do without that splendour in the final trio. But she contributes a deeply considered performance, in which the musical line is full of expressive nuance, and in which no gesture of hand or neck is wasted. In her great monologue she almost persuaded one that this role is principally about acting with the voice, even if that means thinned tone and breaks into something near speech. She also projects a quite extraordinary proportion of the text.

So too does Miss Murray, while doing so in an altogether

more luscious manner. Her sensuousness, though, is very plausibly that of a young man, whether she is throwing herself on the Marschallin in the first act or behaving with nervous dignity in the second. It seems a pity we have to lose so much beauty when she does double drag: honking and hooting as Mariandel, she rather loses touch with the satin character she has earlier created. Still, this is a gorgeous, eager performance.

Barbara Bonney's Sophie, repeated from last time, is very, very gorgeous too. She gushes away like a fountain, responding fully to the character's naive garrulousness; and yet every note is radiantly formed and every phrase beautifully presented.

The Ochs is Hans Sotin, who also shows the virtue of long acquaintanceship with a

role. Once again, it is good to hear so much of the text, even at the expense of the odd longer phrase. It is also good to have an Ochs who is much more boor and bully than buffoon. His threats are genuine, which makes the third-act farce more piquant than it often is, and, still more powerfully and beneficially, brings a real menace to his interviews with the Marschallin.

Among the rest, Robert Tear is an intelligent if slightly effortful Valzacchi, while Eira James, in blue-black as Annina, is a dead ringer for the Spitting Image version of Edwina Curry, singing with an appropriate enticing malevolence. Gottfried Hornik's Faninal needs more character, but otherwise this is a very vivid new view.

Paul Griffiths

CONCERT
Bournemouth SO/
Barshai
Festival Hall

One might want to worry a bit about prodigies, and find something distasteful in the parading of children as performers. But most 14-year-olds seem to have wills vastly greater than those of adults, and so I doubt that the Canadian violinist Corey Cerovsek would be embarking on an international career unless he wanted to. Possibly he should have been dissuaded, but no doubt there are worse ways of getting through adolescence. What really should be cause for concern is the surrounding hype, which presents him as a star when of course he is a gifted fledgling.

Since he is the youngest student ever to be admitted to the high-powered musical mills of the University of Indiana, his gifts were to be expected, but they were still a pleasure in this performance of Mozart's A major Concerto. His tone is not big, but it is purely produced and limpidly delivered. His phrasing is clear and to the point, and his articulation of faster music has

a supple ease: the feel is limber and youthful, and this effect is not at all compromised by his sometimes wide vibrato, since everything is under control.

Care, indeed, is his watchword. There was nothing showy in his performance: his full use of the pause before his entry into the first movement was surely done from diffidence rather than in an attempt to build up his arrival, and even a tricky second-movement cadenza did not disturb his cautious poise. Perhaps this is not the best approach to Mozart; it rather pre-empted wit. Inevitably the finale tended to fall into a sequence of pleasant episodes, and the last gesture was done with wary a smile.

On the other hand, untroubled simplicity is also a part of what Mozart is, and no older musician could achieve Corey Cerovsek's candour, especially when faced by a lacklustre Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Rudolf Barshai. There are doors that close for violinists as surely as for trebles.

Paul Griffiths

● A fortieth birthday concert for the composer Paul Patterson is to be given by the group Aquarius in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on February 10.

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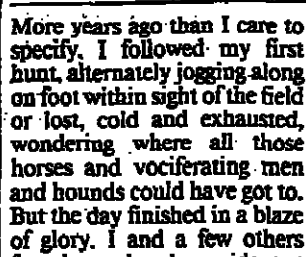
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In vain pursuit

RADIO

really: he and his Manchester team had exercised much imagination and gone to vast trouble fitting up key members of the hunt with radio microphones. Technically it was a tour de force and full of vivid detail, but plainly it was not a great day's hunting — no kill, not even much of a pursuit. And then the preparation for it, the tactical advanced negotiations with local farmers worried for their land, made this a rather careful, buttoned-up operation.

The composition of a hunting field today, we heard, is vastly more varied than it used to be and that was held to be a good thing — except, remarked a farmer, that most

of them are basically townies who can hardly tell a ploughed field from grassland. Perhaps the ancient rite is losing its roots.

Plays that spring from opposition to Eastern Europe's petrified political system do not very often lift the heart, but there was something rather exceptional about *The Maple Tree Game* (Radio 3, Tuesday), the work of Pavel Kohout, a man who has every reason to revile the Communist scheme of his native Czechoslovakia, since it exiled him and stripped him of his citizenship.

His play was taken from a novel by Mircea Eliade, and it concerned a Professor Farma, who goes to visit a former pupil in the Ministry of the Interior. This is portrayed as a murderous madhouse on

which the arrival of the professor has the most extraordinary effect. Compelled to explain how he managed to gain access to the building, his explanations ramble out to elude stories and legends and unsolved mysteries and bits of local history going back to 1713. At first exasperated, sooner or later his listeners become spellbound.

Needless to say, they make use of what he tells them, if they can possibly twist it, as evidence with which to liquidate their colleagues. But still they listen, knowing that in what he tells them there are shards of a truth not to be contained in the prison house of political indoctrination, but appealing to some inextinguishable lamp of humanity. In an excellent cast, Frank Middlemass stood out as Farma and A.J. Quinn's production was exceedingly well managed.

David Wade

SPECTRUM

From Russia with interest

The search is on to find British families which are entitled to a share of the Czar's rouble riches, locked away for 70 years. Michael Evans takes a look inside the treasure house

This week the Foreign Office begins a search for British families who can prove that they should share in a fortune which belonged to the Czar of Russia and has lain untouched in a City bank since the Bolshevik revolution 70 years ago.

With all the interest that has accrued, the Russian roubles — held in a deposit account at Baring Brothers merchant bank — are today worth about £45 million.

The families, whose grandfathers and great-grandfathers were pioneering traders in the Soviet Union at the end of the last century, had long given up hope of ever receiving compensation for the assets which had been snatched by the Russian peasants in the October Revolution. Factories, mines, splendid homes, steamboats, cash, and even a homesick parrot, all were lost in the revolt.

But last July, at the end of a visit to London by the Russian Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, it was announced that an agreement had been reached between Britain and the Soviet Union to settle the dispute over the claims.

Whether it was another example of the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev blowing the dust off the shelves or the persistent appeals from the Foreign Office, it is not clear, but about two years ago the Russians suddenly began negotiating seriously.

For the heirs of those British pioneers, the agreement last summer was rather like receiving a visit from the pools man. But by the time the share-out has been calculated by the accountants, individual

Nobody knows how many will be able to prove their case

compensation payments could dwindle to just a handful of roubles from the Czar's deposit account, frozen by the British Government in 1917.

Last month the Queen approved an order authorizing the release of the funds and later this week the Foreign Office will start to advertise in national newspapers for private claimants to come forward. Nobody knows how many will be able to prove their case or, indeed, how many of the original 37,000 people who registered 60,000 separate claims, then worth a total of £400 million, have surviving relatives.

Many of the claimants will be Russian bond holders, although



Rouble raiser: accountant Michael Clarkson Webb, guardian of the Elworthy assets, worth 1.2 million gold pounds when they were seized in 1917

there is one particular gentleman who rang up the Foreign Office to say that he loved the pictures on his bonds so much that he put them up on the walls of his garden shed. Several years ago his shed went up in smoke. The F.O. has crossed his name off the list.

The more dramatic claims, though, will be from those families who, in 1917, had substantial possessions in Russia. The story of Robert and Thomas Elworthy, sons of a Somerset farmer who built up a manufacturing empire in Russia, only to have it seized by the Communists, is already on the Foreign Office list as a proven case.

The family of the two brothers have kept a meticulous record of all the businesses, homes and out-houses through the years. Today's guardian of the Elworthy assets is a 58-year-old grandson, Michael Clarkson Webb, a Surrey accountant who is also secretary of the Association of British Creditors in Russia, which once boasted nearly 400 members, but is now reduced to just nine.

The Elworthy family case against the Russians is made easier because of an immaculate set of accounts drawn up in 1916 and a beautifully documented claim which was sent to the Foreign Office on March 21, 1918 and given a reference number "RUS 4". The balance sheets show that the business had a value of 12 million gold roubles or 1,200,000 gold pounds when it was taken over.

Apart from the huge factory which specialized in seed drills and threshing machines, based in what was then called Elizabetgrad in southern Russia, the Elworthy brothers also had 42 selling branches and an estate valued at

500,000 roubles (£50,000). Other important items on the list include:

● The sum of 3,500,000 roubles (£350,000), which the company had to sign away "under threat of murder and destruction of the Works"

● A further 75,000 roubles (£7,500), which was seized by workers from the company cashier

● A claim for \$3,180 for goods shipped from America to south Russia via Archangel in the north in January 1914 which failed to reach their destination.

● A claim for £55,000 for goods shipped to Russia in 1919 which

were left behind at the time of the evacuation in March 1920 and requisitioned by the Russians.

Robert and Thomas Elworthy had settled in Elizabetgrad, later renamed Kirovograd, in 1871, and founded the firm of R. & T. Elworthy, makers and importers of agricultural machinery in 1874. Elizabetgrad was the centre of the corn growing areas of South Russia and there was a great demand for their products. The factory prospered despite the sudden and untimely death from pneumonia of Thomas Elworthy at the age of 44.

According to the Elworthy family



Paper fortune: one of the bonds which proves the Elworthy claim

chronicle, kept by Mr Clarkson Webb, grandfather Robert used to commute between Elizabetgrad and his home in England, at Hendon. In Russia he used to travel around in a carriage and four, until in 1903 he proudly bought a Clement motor car, which probably did not endear him to the local peasants, who, only two years later were stirred up by agitators and revolutionaries sent from Moscow who tried to entice the factory workers to riot.

At its height, just before the First World War broke out, the factory was employing 2,500 people and the Elworthy name was known throughout the length and breadth of Imperial Russia. In 1916 the factory was converted into a munitions production line for the war effort employing 5,000 people.

When the Bolsheviks overthrew the Czar in 1917, Robert Elworthy was in England and was never able to return to his factory, which became known as the Red Star Works. The family chronicle, written by Mr Clarkson Webb's mother, recounts: "What about our home? The safe floor used to be polished about on it with polishing cloths on his feet. What is it like now? There was a beautiful painting hanging over the staircase of pretty little children dancing out of a wood. Where is that now?"

On January 2, 1918, Robert Elworthy received a telegram from the factory which read: "All's fairly quiet here but very rotten."

Now, after all these years, a small percentage of the value of the Elworthy assets in the Soviet Union is to be shared out among the many surviving relatives. The factory itself probably no longer exists.

Crewing in the convicts' wake

In May a fleet of six or more ships will set sail on an eight-month expedition to re-enact the 12,000-mile voyage which first planted a permanent colony in Australia 200 years ago. But instead of the thousand or so convicts and press-ganged seamen who crowded the decks of the First Fleet, the new venture will be crewed mainly by volunteers prepared to pay up to £14,000 each for the fun of doing what their predecessors were compelled to do, under threat of chains and the lash.

The project is one of the most imaginative and spectacular of many that are being mounted to celebrate the bicentenary. Led by the frigate *Bounty*, a full-rigged modern replica of the type of vessel that made the original voyage, and under the command of 53-year-old Captain Mike Kitchenside, they plan to sail into Sydney a year from today, on Australia Day 1988, 200 years to the day after the First Fleet dropped anchor there.

The crews will not formally be passengers, but trainees, contractually bound to obey orders and take their share of the business of the ship, including hauling the braces, sitting out stormy night watches, peeling the potatoes and slopping out the heads. The experience should be inspiring, expensive, cramped and probably damp.

"We expect the crews to have about two men to one woman," says Kitchenside, a veteran of the round-the-world youth adventures projects Operation Drake and Operation Raleigh. "In my experience the women are better than the fellows — they'll have a go at anything."

A romantic with eight months to spare would be set back £14,688 for a comprehensive one-way ticket from London to Sydney, or between £1,800 and £3,765 for one of the seven intermediate legs, which range in length between 21 and 55 days. Flights to and from the relevant ports would be extra.

The Australian organizers of the project are sensitive to the fact that the British press that these selfish prices are excessive. They point out that it costs about £590,000 to charter each windjammer for eight months, and that on some of the more arduous legs the price is equivalent to less than £40 a day. The final 35-day romp along the south coast of Australia is already sold out at more than £100 a day. The project could never cover its costs from the sale of berths alone, and depends additionally on an energetic selling of publicity rights.

The plan raises obvious questions, about safety and about marketing. The First Fleet Company has done much to overcome the doubts by the care it has taken to ensure high safety standards. There has been wide consultation with the experts, and the ships will all have to meet the safety requirements

One year from today — with luck and a fair wind — a historic voyage will end in Sydney harbour

of the Australian and British governments (the latter notoriously jumpy ever since the loss of the barque *Marques* in 1984). Each vessel will have a skilled permanent crew to lead the watches and disentangle their pupils from the halyards. The *Bounty* will carry a doctor experienced at homesickness in a seaway, and it is hoped that most of the vessels will have

The experience should be inspiring, expensive and damp

someone aboard with medical training, as a number of doctors and nurses have applied to travel as trainees.

As for the risk of passengers signing on for 40 days before the mast without appreciating what they are letting themselves in for, the project's trainee handbook spells out the possible rigours with due emphasis: "Weather conditions often affect the ability of the galleys crew to perform." It warns, and: "If you don't get along easily with other people, then you prob-



Captain Kitchenside (left) with Ken Rottberg, *Bounty* co-owner. "There are a lot of older people who have heard about Operation Raleigh and thought 'I'd like to try that,'" says Kitchenside, quite unruffled by the prospect of shepherding a hundred or more seafaring volunteers from Biscay to the Roaring Forties. "A deep-water voyage creates an extraordinary sense of community among the crew. It has to — you all know that once you've set sail from Tenerife there is no way of getting off till you drop anchor in Rio."

George Hill

The theologians of liberation

After 30 years, the dictatorship of Paraguay's General Stroessner is finally being challenged — by the church

Bishop Mario Melanio Medina, his clerical collar hanging in a wardrobe nearby and a cigarette in his mouth, looks out of the window of his one-storey white-washed house in the small town of Benjamin Aceval, just under 30 miles from Asuncion, the Paraguayan capital.

He preaches here on Sundays, at the old red adobe church across the dirt road from his home, but Medina's real flock is in Asuncion, its members the increasing number of opponents to the hardline regime of General Alfredo Stroessner, who came to power in 1954. Medina is a liberation theologian, and he would very much like to liberate Paraguay from Stroessner.

Outside, storm clouds stream past and the summer humidity is giving way to the cool breezes of autumn in the southern hemisphere. Political storm clouds are also on the horizon in this country of 3.7 million people, isolated and landlocked in the heart of South America. The winds of change are blowing even in Paraguay, a land so backward and isolated that Nazis once took refuge here.

The Roman Catholic Church in Paraguay, at one time politically activist but for the past 30 years silent and compliant, is finally coming to life again, as a major pillar of support for democratic opponents to the Stroessner regime.



Red Bishop: Mario Medina advocates non-violence

As in Brazil, Chile and other Latin American countries with dictatorial pasts, the church is taking the side of the poor and powerless in this strife-torn land. In so doing, it is provoking the wrath of the established order.

The ruling Colorado party recognizes only one opposition group, the Febristas, and even so their meetings are regularly broken up by pro-Stroessner thugs and the police. It is only in church that dissidents may gather safely, to attend masses that are more like rallies.

Medina, a handsome and energetic 46-year-old, was only 14 when Stroessner seized power in a delayed aftermath to the 1947 civil war. Today, the government and its supporters call him "the red bishop". "Communist-inspired" and worse. It is a label that Medina says he wears with pride. His

telephone is monitored constantly and cut off entirely during tense times. He receives regular death threats, which he shrugs off nonchalantly.

He sees himself as promoting a "permanent, non-violent struggle" for democratic change in Paraguay and is equally critical of the United States and the Soviet Union, both of which he calls "imperialist". He turned down two recent invitations to visit the US as an official guest of the State Department, because he does not wish to appear pro-American.

Medina says that Stroessner considers himself to be "a small god" who "receives immense satisfaction when everyone bows to him". But Paraguay, he adds, is an anachronism in today's Latin America, where the number of rightist military dictatorships has been reduced to two — Stroessner's and General Augusto Pinochet's in Chile. "No one has the right to be owner of a country," Medina says. "Stroessner will end badly if he continues like this."

Along the road to Asuncion, a herd of Cebu cattle are marched down the middle of the highway and across a one-lane bridge, stopping traffic in both directions.

The Paraguayan gauchos or cowboys sip wine from bottles as they herd them along. In this largely cattle-breeding area, the shutting down of roadways is common, but has recently been prohibited by the Ministry of Agriculture. But these cattle belong to the Minister of Agriculture, a close ally of Stroessner, and no one thinks of complaining.

In Asuncion itself, Monsignor Jorge Livieres Banks chain-smokes cigarettes in his quiet study at the archdiocese

headquarters, across from the central cathedral and adjacent to the police barracks. Livieres Banks is secretary-general of the Catholic Episcopal Conference of Bishops, auxiliary Archbishop of Asuncion and spokesman for the church in political affairs.

The church has called recently for a "national dialogue" among all sectors of the country, with the hope of heading off the possibility of further violence and pressing the government into bending in the direction of democratic change. Ismael Rolon, the Archbishop of Asuncion, has called publicly for an end to the "lies" and "violence".

The government is not responding, but Livieres Banks believes that change will come. In the meantime, the church is simply trying to ensure that it is peaceful and positive.

Even Ismael Rolon, the Archbishop of Asuncion, has recently called openly for an

end to the "lies" and the "violence". Relations between the church and the regime are not smooth by any means, as the church has added its voice to those clamoring for change.

"We have to look for a way of change," Livieres Banks says, adding that immorality in the government has become "normality", with no one surprised any longer by stories of corruption or graft inside the government or in the private sector. "People are losing the sense of what is wrong."

Livieres Banks lights another imported Kent cigarette — probably part of the contraband that is so much a part of Paraguay's economy. Civil war, violence, death and poverty — these are the problems on his agenda today. It is an agenda filled to the brim, but more and more clerics — like more and more lay persons in Paraguay — are working toward a better future.

John Enders

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1465

1 Across (4,2)	1 Down (4,2)	2 Across (4,2)	2 Down (4,2)	3 Across (4,2)	3 Down (4,2)	4 Across (4,2)	4 Down (4,2)	5 Across (4,2)	5 Down (4,2)	6 Across (4,2)	6 Down (4,2)	7 Across (4,2)	7 Down (4,2)	8 Across (4,2)	8 Down (4,2)	9 Across (4,2)	9 Down (4,2)	10 Across (4,2)	10 Down (4,2)	11 Across (4,2)	11 Down (4,2)	12 Across (4,2)	12 Down (4,2)	13 Across (4,2)	13 Down (4,2)	14 Across (4,2)	14 Down (4,2)	15 Across (4,2)	15 Down (4,2)	16 Across (4,2)	16 Down (4,2)	17 Across (4,2)	17 Down (4,2)	18 Across (4,2)	18 Down (4,2)	19 Across (4,2)	19 Down (4,2)	20 Across (4,2)	20 Down (4,2)	21 Across (4,2)	21 Down (4,2)	22 Across (4,2)	22 Down (4,2)	23 Across (4,2)	23 Down (4,2)	24 Across (4,2)	24 Down (4,2)	25 Across (4,2)	25 Down (4,2)
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DOWN

1 Oak fruit (5)
2 Lock lever (3)
3 Christ's judge (7,6)
4 Sort (4)
5 RCMP (7)
6 End (5)
7 Countess's husband (4)
8 Light blow (4)
9 Bann (4)
10 At an angle (7)
11 Solicit business (4)
12 Land between (5)
13 Innocent (5)
14 Bacon skin (4)
15 Russian secret police (1,1,1)

PERSONAL BANKING

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WHEN YOU NEED US WE'LL BE LISTENING

Death

Mrs Thatcher is planning a charter for women — but what will it contain? And do women really need it?

Garden flower in Country Life

MONDAY PAGE

Deadlier than the male?

Increasingly, the face of international terrorism is female; women form more than half of the German most-wanted list. Liz Gill reports

These days, the finger that pulls the trigger or sets the detonator is almost as likely to be female as male. From Leila Khaled through the Price sisters and Ulrike Meinhof to Action Directe's Menigon and Aubron, the hall of terrorist infamy is filling up with women. Where once they might have played a supporting role, they now go to war themselves and prove to be as callous and cruel as any man.

Jillian Becker, director of the Institute for the Study of Terrorism, smiles grimly as she ponders the phenomenon. "There are," she says, "a lot of equal opportunities in terrorism."

Becker has spent the past 11 years probing the minds and motivations of such people, particularly the European urban guerrillas who led the field in this civil emancipation. She is no longer surprised by the number of women terrorists. "If anything I'm surprised there aren't more," she says. "It's such a tremendous outlet for raw emotions and passion."

"Although it might seem that women are behaving like men, I'm increasingly convinced it's the other way round. If you accept, for whatever reason, that women are the more emotional sex then it's the male terrorists who are behaving in a female fashion."

"Sometimes the women get drawn in via their men but once they are in they can be even more vicious. They've found a vocation and they want to do a good job."

Most of the European terrorists come from affluent middle-class backgrounds, but may have experienced failure - dropping out of university, experiencing problems with relationships or having feelings of social inadequacy.

"They see a sort of glamour in it. There's this tremendous show-off quality - a sort of 'look at me, I'm killing' thing. They want to be heroines, they want to make their

mark. They usually see things with a religious intensity, they picture themselves as the children of light fighting against tyranny. The intensity of such feelings can keep a movement running at fever pitch."

"They are not that clever, generally. They are tremendously sentimental about, say, animals or the environment or the homeless. But it's always at a distance, they're not imaginative. They have tunnel vision. The shutters come down when it comes to other individuals. They see human beings as symbols, as living meat to be blown up or shot down for their own purposes."

Besides the older style of passionate crusader, Becker discerns the emergence of a chilling new type, prepared to act in cold blood - such as the two Action Directe hit-men who lay in wait for Georges Besse of Renault and shot him at close range.

"That kind of killing requires another degree of cruelty. You are not at a distance. But these women can not only do it, they seem to actively seek it out."

"What I think is happening is that women like Meinhof - who pioneered the use of terrorism under the grand pretext of doing it for humanity - showed the way to people who didn't have that excuse, but felt they could trade on it. People who are, let's face it, simply cruel, nasty people who

want to kill. They have found an outlet for their destructive urges. Most of them do not have children and are therefore exempt from any 'softening' motherhood might cause. They also tend not to accept personal responsibility, Becker says. "When they're caught it's always - 'Look what you've made me do' - you being the state or the government or imperialism or whatever. Their need to throw off personal responsibility suggests they would not be the sort to take it on in the first place."

Becker believes such women have always existed. In other ages they would have been ordinary criminals or would have directed their tyrannies against their families or even themselves - suicide is a recurrent motif. Our age simply gives them a broader base from which to indulge their deadly urges.

A 54-year-old mother of three grown-up daughters, Becker seems an unlikely expert on the psychology of violent death. Small and slight with elegant clothes and grey hair, she might seem more suited to a genteel literary circle than an unmarked basement in central London, where the faces of wanted terrorists glower from the walls.

Indeed she came into the field almost by accident. She was a novelist who turned to non-fiction when she needed to make some money after her divorce "and I realized more was happening in the world than inside my head."

She turned to the Bader-Meinhof case, "though at that point I didn't even know which was the man and which was the woman". She was attracted by the contrast between middle-class prosperity and heinous crime and spent 10 months scuttling around Germany attending the trials and interviewing more than 130 people.

"I often think I'd like to have been a private eye. My blood would really be up when I was on the trail." Her book about the Bader-Meinhof gang, *Hitler's*



To kill for joy: A fatal passion, says Jillian Becker (above), drove women like Leila Khaled (top) and Ulrike Meinhof into terrorism

Children, became a best-seller and gave her a political education.

As demand for her knowledge increased so did her expertise and she co-authored a book on the PLO. When, last year, the IST was set up with Lord Chalfont as chairman she was a natural choice as director. Now her views can be sought by anyone interested in comprehending or countering one of the scourges of modern life.

Her fieldwork has taken her from communes in West Germany - where she won acceptance by her abilities to read Tarot cards and fake dog smoking, although she says "I can't even bear tobacco" - to the ruins of Lebanon, where she sifted through the rubble for documents. "I found a book of poems written by a PLO jailer. It was extraordinary

to contrast this sad, sentimental verse with the monster I knew he was."

She was helped by being a woman - "small, older, non-aggressive, a thinker rather than an activist" - and by people's often astonishing need to unburden themselves. "It's what the Catholic Church understands so well. Whether it was boasting or confession I didn't always know - but I was amazed by what people would tell me."

"I was interviewing an old Bedouin, a Fatah fighter, and he started to describe to me in detail how he had tortured a 15-year-old girl to death with a knife. As he did so tears were pouring down his face. Was he weeping through shame or guilt, or because he felt sorry for himself?"

"I found him utterly disgusting and his tears made me loathe and despise him as I've never done anyone else. I don't think I gave anything away. I was still the objective listener, but I was so shaken inside with anger that if I'd had the strength and courage I would have hit him in revenge."

"Look, I'm lucky. I'm a writer, a mother, I'm comfortably off. I've led a sheltered life but I've still been able to cope with some of the horrors, the rotting corpses, the detritus of war. But nothing had prepared me for that man. It was unspeakable evil."

Defectors from groups still contact her but she no longer goes out into the field - "My cover is blown now". Friends and family worry about her safety but although any public appearance will

bring her hate mail she generally believes "people don't kill their biographers".

For Jillian Becker to understand everything is not to pardon everything. On the contrary: "Often the more you understand, the less you forgive. You cannot abolish morality and reason. If you're a sympathetic person you might be able to feel sympathy for them, but you can't use that as an excuse to whitewash what they've done. You have to ask 'Would I forgive it in myself?'"

"I am not a pacifist. I am sure there are just wars. But there is no cause - actual or conceivable - that justifies the use of terrorism, the use of the innocent to create public fear. That is the opposite of civilization, that is barbarism."

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Vivien Goldsmith inspects Mothercare's latest addition

A crèche course in taking good care of your baby



Having fun: Most children, like Thomas, make straight for such toys as this ball pool

home," says the supervisor, 24-year-old Julie Warner. But along comes Adam to prove her wrong. It is the first time he has ever been left and there are tears.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children in for an inspection visit before they are left for the first time. Considering the fuss and trauma of a first day at school, many mothers seem quite blasé about dropping off little ones with complete strangers and departing for the shops.

... justifiably as it turns out. Most children set about ravaging the play things without a backward glance.

Parents and children have

been enthusiastic and after two months there are quite a few regulars. The crèche gives parents a break for shopping, meeting the bank manager, lunching in a pub or going for a haircut. But it is not meant to be a child-minding service.

"The objective is not to make money. It's another service for the customer," says Mothercare's market development manager Christine Martin. But the crèche, which can take up to 16 children at a time, only needs a 38 per cent occupancy to cover its operating costs. Less than two months after opening, it has already reached 25 per cent capacity with no promotion

beyond a few leaflets and signs in the shop itself. "I hadn't been in town on my own for four years," says Lynne Allman, with a grimace, as she dropped off her two boys at the crèche and headed for the shops. "You can't really shop with two children. The first time I took them to the crèche I just sat on my own with a cup of coffee and a Danish pastry for the whole hour. It was wonderful just to sit quietly."

Now Lynne Allman brings four-year-old Tony and 2½-year-old Matthew to the crèche once a week. It gives her breathing space and they have a terrific time romping

with other children. Some mothers bring in their children for the children's sake and kill time wandering around the shops.

Ann Cowan from Ascot visited the crèche while staying with her mother in Worcester. Her son Alexander enjoyed himself so much on his first visit that he begged his mother to go shopping in Worcester again. She relented.

"It gives me a chance to browse around. A four-year-old gets fed up with shopping after 10 minutes, so you just have to grab the essentials."

Mothercare now has mother and baby rooms in more than half of their 230 shops. But earlier experiences with mother and baby rooms were not happy. The towels were pinched and the free disposable nappies gathered up by the armful. Now mothers have to ask if they want a nappy.

At the Worcester crèche if a child gets wet, it is given a new set of clothes and the parent is asked to wash and return them. They do. Nothing has been lost so far. No meals are served in the crèche, but plain sweet biscuits and non-alcoholic drinks are available.

Mothercare are not the first to offer a crèche service. The Early Learning Centre has one in Milton Keynes and another in Croydon's Whitgift Centre. Each of these has four trained staff and can take up to 24 children at £1 an hour for a maximum of two hours.

Such crèches more than pay for themselves. "We would not continue to do it if they did not," said a spokeswoman. "It's a compliment that Mothercare have copied us right down the line."

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Tongues across the sea

FIRST PERSON

Peter Barnard

Phil Donahue. That name surely belongs to the kinda guy who says "good" when you ask him how he is. The kinda guy who speaks Murcan, a form of English widely spoken in America. A direct, snappy kinda guy, like all Murcans.

Robert Kilroy-Silk. That name surely belongs to the type of person who says "very well thank you" when you enquire as to his health. The type of person who speaks the Queen's English, a form of the language widely pulverized in Murca.

Winston Churchill said our two countries were divided by a common language. But now another factor comes into play: a comparison between Donahue's vox pop show on daytime American television and Kilroy-Silk's copy (oh yes it is) over here shows that, like great acting, the difference is all in the delivery.

Donahue takes an issue and bats it around the audience like a game of pass the parcel; fiddle with the linguistic wrapping too long and the microphone will be whisked away. Everything from "er..." to "on the other hand..." to "of course it must be said..." is an unallowable expense to highly-taxed American talk show producers.

The Donahue show is to conversation what a health food store is to shopping - there are absolutely no additives. But Kilroy-Silk's programme is verbiage-enriched, a series of little speeches. Clear your throat into Donahue's microphone and he

will swing across the aisle for a second opinion; clear it into Kilroy-Silk's and he will wait while you suck a lozenge.

Americans are tele-articulate to an extent undreamed of in Britain. They may be concerned about the state of their education - which is no surprise given that millions of teenagers are going into college still moving their lips while they read the syllabus - yet shove an American microphone down the funnel of a sinking ship and a crewman will use his last breaths to describe the disaster in 30 prime-time seconds.



Talk and cheese: Robert Kilroy-Silk (left) and Phil Donahue

His words come out already edited. The British are different; no wonder the only sound on the Titanic was that of the orchestra - nobody could think of quite the right words to describe the situation.

English reserve is part of the explanation but the biggest

factor is that Americans have extraordinary access to television, not because American television stations are somehow more democratically inclined but merely because these stations exist by the thousands, often serving tiny communities. Set your kitchen on fire over there and you could make the early evening news.

The British are largely cut off from television. We can write a letter to *Points of View* and have it read out by someone else; certain sectional interests - gardeners, spotty teenagers - can even telephone a couple of shows for advice. Channel Four has a "video box" specially designed so that members of the public can't contaminate the professionals; and there is "access television", named on the officers' mess Christmas party principle - an implicit reminder that this is a special facility not normally extended to the infantry.

Perhaps the opening up of the airwaves will change all of this. I hope so. Certainly the proliferation of radio stations, alerted by the ubiquity of the telephone, saps well; radio phone-in programmes are not only popular but vastly better than in their formative years. Phone-ins have helped people come to terms with the medium, even if the message is often pretty whacky.

Oops... now that is the kind of condescension that is keeping ordinary people out of the television studios. Y'all have a nice day.

WEDNESDAY

Mrs Thatcher is planning a charter for women - but what will it contain? And do women really need it?

Your brats, my darlings, our children

PENNY PERRICK



The devil makes work for idle minds, as well as for idle hands, by planting worries where none existed before. The latest example is a recently-discovered condition called PFI, or Paternity Fidelity Insecurity.

Sufferers spend sleepless nights and fretful days wondering why, since they themselves come from a long line of lager-sipping football enthusiasts, their son reads Proust and pores over Wine Society catalogues. They then start trying to remember whether their wife gave one of her dimpled smiles to the milkman back in 1963.

Victims of PFI may not always be prey to paranoid delusions. After all, some research in Rancora, many years ago, showed that several recently-born babies belonged to blood groups which proved that they were unlikely to be the offspring of the men to whom their mothers were married. Even so, there is probably more PFI about than the evidence warrants.

How much easier to resort

to doubts about the paternity of one's child when said child is behaving feckishly than to work hard at revising one's style of prevention. I have often entertained such doubts myself. Is this Maternity Fidelity Insecurity (MFI)?

You may think it rather farfetched to imagine that my children aren't actually my children when I was definitely

around when they made their first appearance, but what if the docile little darlings I gave birth to got mixed up in the hospital nursery and I was left with a pair of dark-eyed demons who are so sassy that discussing something simple like democratic socialism with them feels like going five rounds with Frank Bruno?

I do know where they get their scathing repartee from. Certainly not from my side of the family. Somewhere in the world, or so I sometimes try to convince myself, there are two wholesomely average kids who were originally destined to be mine.

I imagine that PFI isn't a chronic condition but steals on from fathers from time to time, like shaving rash. It probably disappears entirely when a man stands by the cot in which his two-month-old baby is still sleeping rosily after eight in the morning.

PFI is probably at its most virulent when the headmaster of the sixth-form college writes a snotty letter containing threats of expulsion. Or

when the decibel-level of the Pet Shop Boys' new single threatens to lift the roof of the house. Or when adonoidal-sounding youths take to ringing up at midnight and asking to speak to Debbie.

It is then that men take to asking you what you intend to do about "your" children, just as women will always refer to "your" car when the brake-lining goes.

Kept within the bounds of fantasy, PFI needn't become a danger to society or fill up psychiatric wards. If fathers sometimes ponder whether their children are really theirs, children are far more ready to believe that they belong to somebody else. Somebody who has never heard of parental authority, who places no restriction on Coca Cola or who thinks that Dempsey and Makepeace is more essential viewing than *Blue Peter*. But what happened was that a gypsy stole them from their cradle when they were babies and gave them to the unbending brutes who dare to call themselves their parents.

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THE TIMES DIARY Delayed reaction

The Liberals still have some way to go to match the Tories for marketing acumen. Last summer, in the sure and certain belief that most expatriates are Tory at heart, Central Office launched a mail-shot to persuade 100,000 of them to put their names on the electoral register, as they are entitled to do under new legislation. Now the Liberal Party has set up its own international organization, Liberals Abroad. A party document, grandly entitled *Helping to Build Liberalism Across the Globe*, says the outfit will help supporters living overseas to register as voters in Britain. As for David Steel, the initiative has come a little late. The last date for registration to vote in a 1987 general election was October 1986.

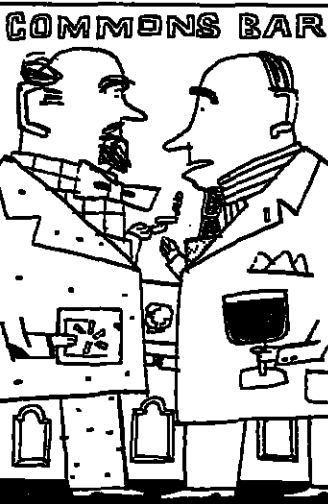
And sari?

With the deadline for nominations closing at midnight tonight, a local favourite has emerged to succeed David Penhaligon as Liberal candidate in Truro. Doris Ansari, a local councillor for 15 years, is now vying with David Steel's election adviser, Paul Tyler, and Penhaligon's 24-year-old research assistant, Matthew Taylor, for nomination for the safe Liberal seat. Mrs Ansari's name is already causing confusion in the highest offices of the party. "I think it's a Cornish name," one top party aide confided. In fact her husband was born in Pakistan.

Credentials

Frank Shakespeare, Reagan's new ambassador to the Holy See, was taken aback when the Pope welcomed him into the Vatican with warm praise for his "esteemed predecessor". Shakespeare's predecessor was William Wilson, who resigned amid a storm in Washington over his contacts with Libya. Could His Holiness have been attempting an oblique reference to another Shakespeare predecessor — William, perhaps?

BARRY FANTONI



"No, I wasn't shown The Secret Society, but I did get into a rehearsal of Perdition"

Backing in

The New Yorker, in turmoil at the appointment of a new editor over the heads of its staff, is about to get a British challenger. *Granta*, the Cambridge-based literary magazine which rose from the ashes of undergraduate journalism in 1979 to become a national quarterly, has signed a deal with the New York Review of Books to publish in the United States. Boosted by a \$100,000 promotional campaign, *Granta* hopes to more than double its 32,000 sales. Editor Bill Buford, who gloats that some of *Granta*'s best recent pieces came off *The New Yorker* spike, fears the competition may now pick up: "I cannot believe the new editor will let pieces like that get away". Meanwhile, Manhattan *Literati* should beware taking too literally *Granta* boasts of its university origins. Louisiana-born Buford confesses he cannot wait to move *Granta* from its leaking Cambridge garret to London.

Down, Bonzo

Lord Avebury is not leaving all his body as dog food. I have just had a peep at the donor card he carries in his wallet which signs away his kidneys, eyes, heart, liver and pancreas for use in transplants. Only underneath does he add the rider: "And the remainder to be given to the Battersea Dogs home".

No help

Hundreds of baffled Welshmen have been left scratching their heads over their government leaflets on Aids. Problems in the mailing have resulted in the Welsh version of the leaflet going out to English-speaking households. The Central Office of Information admits there have been problems: one English-speaking pensioner was convinced the leaflet was about how to claim the government's cold weather fiver.

Pulling power

Harking back to the days of *Oh Mr Porter*, British Rail placated delayed passengers one night last week the old-fashioned way. When the 7 pm Charing Cross to Ashford pulled up short at Marsden, a guard announced that a goods train had blocked the line ahead: "You might as well go to the pub — I'll come and fetch you when we're ready to pull out." Dutifully, the commuters trooped out. Two hours and some pints later, the train's hooter blew. Scarcely a grumble was to be heard as they made their way back to their seats. They don't teach customer relations like that at the BR charm school.

PHS

A poll not worth two cents

by Robert Worcester

The Gallup poll published last week showing Labour with a 5 per cent lead now seems to have been a total aberration — and I would say the same had it been produced by NOP, Harris, Marplan or my own company, MORI. No single poll provides a reliable guide. But its principal effect — to top 2 cents off the value of sterling, from \$1.5350 on Thursday night to \$1.5150 on Friday morning — raises some intriguing questions.

No other development overnight could explain the fall: no change in government money policy; no serious setback for a big British company; no political scandal; no hardening of an industrial dispute. The Guinness affair rumbled along at its previous pace and the extension of the BT dispute came a day later. So why should the money markets have responded with so sharp a fall at this point in the run-up to the next election?

For a start, they failed to take into account the fact that a poll is a snapshot at a point in time — when the interviews are conducted, not a few days later, when published. Harold Wilson's maxim that "a week is a long time in politics" was based on his observation of how fickle opinion can be and how quickly the public mood reacts to events. Polls are more like thermometers than barometers.

In Britain, with today's speed of communications, a poll taken a month, or even a week, before election day is likely to be well adrift of the actual result. "The poll that polls last polls best" has been true in past general elections. No poll can predict the outcome of an election some months, perhaps over a year, away.

So even if Gallup's 5 point Labour lead were accurate, why should it matter to the money traders in the City and around the world? For sterling to be affected would not only assume Gallup was accurate, but that it mattered.

All political observers agree that a general election before May or June is extremely unlikely. Most believe that Mrs Thatcher will not go to the country before October unless the Conservatives have a significant lead in the opinion polls (not just one) over several months. An election a year and a half before she has to call one would be unlikely even if the Tories were leading by double figures in all the polls, public and private.

Nine out of the last ten polls published have shown the Tories leading by between 2 and 5 per cent, except for Gallup's extraor-

inary 8.5 per cent Tory lead in mid-December. Mrs Thatcher has also undoubtedly had access to private polls over the same period and some of these may have shown a narrow Labour lead. With at least a four-point lead required in an election to secure an overall majority, and an expected loss of more than 60 of her backbench (and some front bench) colleagues on almost all of these figures, how likely is she to call an early election? Not very, I would say, especially if the Gallup result were taken seriously.

In the face of such a run of polls, how likely is it that Gallup's five-point Labour lead is "real"? The sample size was less than 1,000, so its estimate of the Conservative share at 34.5 per cent (3.5 per cent fewer than any other polling organization's findings since October) has a 19 out of 20 probability of being in the range of 31.5-37.5 per cent and a 50-50 chance of being between 33 per cent and 36 per cent — unless it is a "rogue" poll (which can happen occasionally to any of us).

But if it is real, what could have caused it? The cold weather heating allowance rumour? City scandals? Then how come Harris in *The Observer* yesterday, with

fieldwork during the three days after Gallup, shows the Conservatives with their biggest share yet (44 per cent), a level not achieved since Neil Kinnock was elected Labour leader in October 1983?

So if an election is less, not more likely, and it is more, not less, likely that Gallup is out of line anyway, why did sterling fall? I suggest it is because fixing the rate is a bit of a poker game, and the betting changes on the turn of each card, and Thursday night's Gallup was a wild card. For every dealer who sold sterling, someone bought, and the lower rate may be a good thing if it makes British exports more competitive.

But, hopefully, having been burnt this time, the sellers will react more sceptically when they hear of a poll result showing a sharp swing in one direction or another and will look twice at the technical detail and the track record of the pollster. Although a useful guide to public opinion, polls can be fallible (though not so fallible as their critics contend); they are subject to sampling error (the larger the sample the better), clustering effect (the more sampling points the better), timing (the later the better).

Experience usually tells, though apparently not on this occasion.

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The author is chairman of MORI.

Michael Ledeen gives the first inside account of the events that led Reagan and his men, for the best of motives, into the arms-for-hostages debacle

How Iran opened Irangate

Washington
The origins of the US initiative in Iran lie in the recognition of Iran's strategic importance, our lack of reliable information about the situation inside Iran, and the conviction of many Iranians that the US holds the key to their destiny. But the most interesting part of the whole affair has been overlooked: the original *démarche* came not from Washington, nor from Jerusalem, but — so far as I can reconstruct the story — almost certainly from Tehran.

In 1985, as a part-time consultant to the National Security Council, I was trying to get a better picture of the state of affairs in Iran. The prolonged war with Iraq had taken a heavy toll and the meagre information at Washington's disposal suggested that drastic change was not unlikely, even in the short term.

Khomeini's health was notoriously fragile; social violence was reportedly rampant. Such a situation presented opportunities for the Soviet Union, with its long joint border with Iran and a tradition of periodic intrusion into Iranian affairs. The presence of five Soviet divisions on the Iranian border heightened US anxieties.

On the Iranian side, there has been a deep-seated (some would say irrational) conviction that the US is intimately involved in determining the country's future, as it has been in the past. The US government has repeatedly been approached by Iranian exiles asking for help in challenging the Khomeini regime. And, as the events of 1985-1986 have now amply demonstrated, even high-ranking members of the Iranian government, despite their violent denunciations of all things American, have been willing to work for better relations.

'Good relations not possible with a nation that backed terrorism'

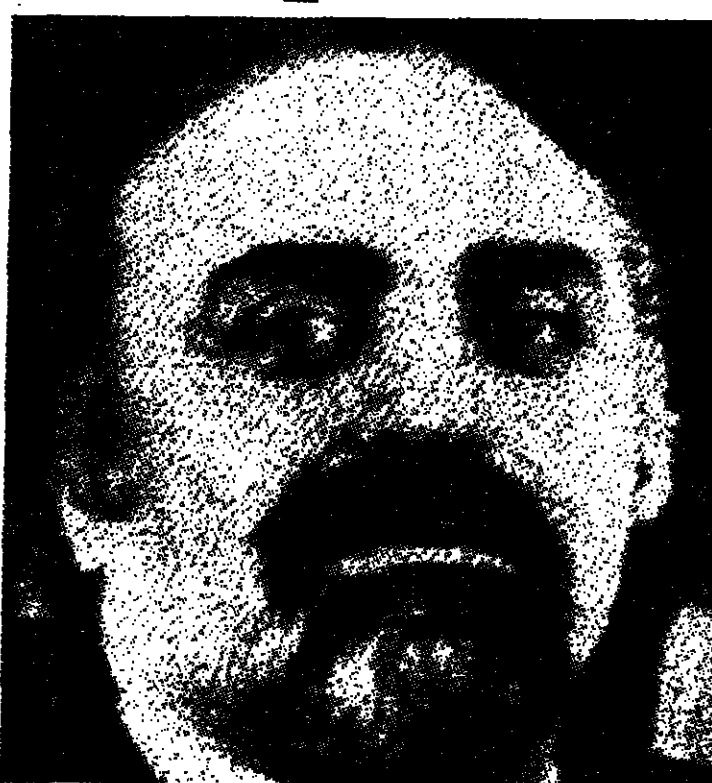
In early 1985 there was, then, a solid basis on both sides for some sort of initiative. But in Washington the detailed information needed for the design of a sensible policy was lacking. I had written about Iran in the past and in May that year the National Security Council asked me to go to Israel for discussions with people ranging from high-level government officials to recent émigrés from Iran. The topic was improving our mutual understanding of Iran, including its role in international terrorism. American hostages in Lebanon were not even discussed.

Even the best-informed Israelis were dissatisfied with their understanding of Iranian affairs. They, like us, believed that the matter was sufficiently important to warrant further investigation.

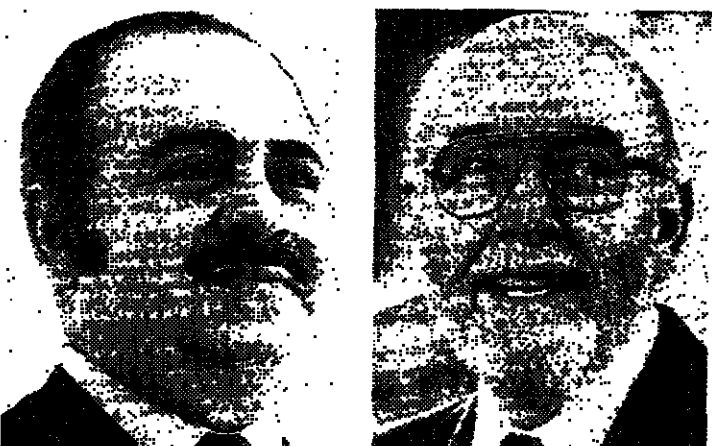
In July, Al Schwimmer, the retired chief of Israel Aircraft and a personal friend of the prime minister, Shimon Peres, told me that the Israelis had been contacted by an Iranian, Manucher Ghorbanifar, who, apparently with the encouragement of leading members of the Iranian government, was interested in discussing future relations between Iran and the US. Ghorbanifar had been introduced to the Israelis by the Saudi Arabian businessman, Adnan Khashoggi.

I went to Israel in the second half of July and met Ghorbanifar towards the end of the month. Also present were Schwimmer, David Kimche, director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, and Jacob Nimrod, the former Israeli military attaché in Tehran. A self-made businessman who has twice achieved considerable financial success, Ghorbanifar proved himself to be one of those rare individuals who understand not only the subtleties of their own culture, but others as well.

He told us that leading members of the Iranian government were prepared to improve relations with the US provided that Washington responded in like manner. It was made clear to him that the US could not possibly have good relations with a country that



Ghorbanifar: he promised — and he delivered



Khashoggi: first introduction

Weir: exchanged for arms

continued to support international terrorism. Ghorbanifar emphasized Tehran's vigorous denials of any direct role in terrorism but indicated that steps might be taken to prevent further incidents. The US, he said, would see other evidence of Iran's seriousness. Ghorbanifar had brought with him no document from anyone in Tehran, no proof of his *bona fides*. How, then, could one believe that he was whom he said? And, even if it was determined that he was a legitimate emissary of the Khomeini government — or some elements of it — why should anyone accept his assurances that Tehran would change a significant number of its policies?

On his side, he posed similar questions: how could he assure the Iranians that the US was willing to work for better relations with a government that was regularly denounced by every leading American official as one of the most hateful in the world?

It was in this context that questions involving weapons, hostages and other matters first emerged. Ghorbanifar raised these matters, not as a proposed swap, but as a way that each side could satisfy the other about the legitimacy of the channel, and the ability of the respective governments to take steps to demonstrate the seriousness of their intentions.

Iran, he said, could not move towards better relations so long as Washington acted forcefully to prevent it obtaining the weapons needed to defend itself against Iraq. Thus, he said, a symbolic gesture permitting Iran to obtain weapons hitherto beyond its reach — was called for. Similarly, by acting to free Americans held hostage by Middle East terrorists, Iran would show its willingness and ability to combat terrorism aimed at the US.

It must be remembered that there was a vexing and complex humanitarian question for the US in the summer of 1985, for one of the Americans held hostage in Lebanon was William Buckley, a government official, who was reportedly being subjected to systematic torture. What, if any, were the obligations of the US government toward him? Was the

policy of "no negotiations, no concessions" to apply also to governments in a position to influence events? Should the US categorically refuse to make any gesture whatever towards Iran?

Shipping arms to Iran, or even acquiescing in their shipment, raised many issues. The gesture proposed by Ghorbanifar was likely to be read in Tehran as a willingness to ease the arms embargo if the Iranians changed their policies. But it was made clear that, whatever happened, the US would not do anything to enable Iran to overwhelm Iraq.

What should the American government have done in the late summer of 1985? To begin with, there was the question of Ghorbanifar's reliability. He was known to be active in obtaining weapons for Iran on the international market, and his story could well have been a fiction invented simply to obtain more weapons for his country and a higher commission for himself. He could even have been an *agent provocateur*, sent by the Iranians — or even the KGB — to test American intentions or to ensure us into an embarrassing action which they could then expose.

However, if he was indeed a legitimate channel from top government officials in Iran, would the US not be acting irresponsibly if it did not respond?

'Each side was entitled to conclude that the channel was authentic'

There was a further question: what sort of Iranian leader was likely to be interested in improving relations with the United States? It is not necessary to believe in the existence of "moderates" — at least in our sense of the word — to be willing to recognize that there were, and are, many Iranian leaders who prefer the United States to the Soviet Union. One of the basic ingredients of the radical Shi'ites who came to power in Iran in 1979 is their passionate anti-communism (recognized explicitly at the time by Zbigniew Brzezinski... and by the Soviet Union); even many

of those Iranians who hated America were capable of recognizing that it is far more distant, and thus potentially less troublesome, than the Soviet empire.

So the notion that there were people in powerful positions in Tehran with whom progress could be made was certainly plausible. And over the next few weeks it was possible to acquire sufficient further information to support it.

These events, together with the considerable body of information about the Iranian situation that had been gathered in the meantime, were reported to Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, in early August. A joint test of the sort that had been discussed took place in September: weapons reached Iran, and an American hostage, the Rev Benjamin Weir, reached freedom. Each side was entitled to conclude that the channel was authentic. The dialogue had now to turn to the central issue: the evolution of the US-Iranian relationship.

'Advantages to the US go beyond the release of hostages'

Discussions involving people from the US, Israel and Iran continued during the autumn of 1985. They were concerned mainly with two questions: an expansion of co-operative actions by Iran and the US and future actions involving arms and hostages. Inside the US government, one view — which I shared — was that all discussions of hostages and weapons should cease. Quite apart from the general principle that it is almost always a mistake to pay ransom for hostages, it was urgent to see if the Iranian leaders were willing to alter their policies to achieve better relations with us. If they could continue to obtain American-made weapons, we might never be able to evaluate their real intentions: they might simply be pretending to co-operate to keep the weapons flowing. This was also McFarlane's assessment.

The other view was that hostage releases should be principal US objectives, even if it meant further arms transfers. This view was obviously based on a compassionate belief that it was improper for the US government to stand by when something could be done to free the hostages. One of the paradoxes of the contemporary scene is that even the most resolute western leaders have themselves fallen hostage to such compassion. Whatever pressure existed in 1985 came from the innocent convictions of the western leaders, or so it seemed.

I have no first-hand knowledge of the events of the past year, but even so, it seems fair to draw some general conclusions:

● One of the great tragedies in the Iran affair is that the efforts to improve relations between the two countries got so intimately intertwined with the question of hostages that it is difficult to judge whether the diplomatic and geo-political objectives could have been achieved. This judgement is crucial in shaping future policy.

● I believe that there was — and perhaps still is — a strong inclination on the part of at least some senior Iranian officials to work towards better relations with the US. Had Khomeini wished to deliver a stern lesson to those working for better relations, the "Irangate" revelations last November would have provided a splendid opportunity; yet he blocked any investigation.

● The decision to pursue the Iranian Connection at least led to a continued dialogue. Its advantages to the US were substantial, and not limited to words or the release of a few hostages. For example, how many lives were saved by the suspension of Iranian-sponsored terrorism? And the prospect of future progress remains.

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The author is senior fellow in international affairs at the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

T.E. Utley

Can there ever be consensus?

It was an unhappy day when political commentators decided that it was incumbent on them to engage in political thought. The result has been the importation into topical commentary of a number of highly confused abstract concepts which lead to the distortion of reality and the corruption of judgement.

Take, for example, the idea of "consensus politics". According to the apostles of the Thatcherite revolution, this wicked concept prevailed in Britain in the 1950s and early '60s, leading the Conservative Party to bend over backwards to placate its opponents at the cost of ruining the economy by profligate public expenditure on comforts for the people.

According to the Labour Party also (thinking with hindsight), these were golden years of "consensus" in which benevolent aristocratic gentlemen, admittedly the depositors of a bygone age but wholly superior to vulgar materialism, expressed their patrician concern for the solid working man by being kind to trade unions and building up the welfare state.

None of this seemed so at the time. My memory is that the Tories fought successive general elections on the platform of free enterprise, and never ceased to boast of their reductions in taxation. My memory also is that the entire Labour Party never ceased to denounce "Tory misrule" as being devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of capitalist spies. Well, distance makes the heart grow fonder, or colder, as the case may be.

But let us suppose a Britain in which there was a genuine and strongly felt political consensus. Would it not be inevitable that this should find expression in the policies of any political party which aspired to power? Of course, if the consensus was an agreement on thoroughly bad measures calculated eventually to produce national suicide, there would be no moral merit in espousing it; but is there any moral merit in rejecting a consensus just because it is one?

Oddly enough, there have always been those who think that there is. To them politics is an art form which requires constant confrontation, a theatre in which grand themes of virtue and wickedness must be tragically enacted or, at the very least, a spectator sport which is thoroughly dampened by anything which looks like compromise and moderation.

The British, I believe, have not much time (except in emergencies such as war) for the grand themes, but they quite like the spectator sport which is fun to watch and enables them to feel an amused contempt for the players. "Oh, Maggie gave 'em what for Harold's a wily old bastard!" and so on. If politics ever loses this trivial appeal, if politicians ever abandon verbal brawls for properly conducted seminars, in short if the SDP is allowed to set the tone of political debate, democracy will perish by boredom.

As I find, however, the electorate does like to feel that, in the intervals between jousting, its political leaders are paying some serious attention to the nation's affairs and, in particular, are not going out of their way gratuitously to affront large sections of the community. Some respect for any national consensus which may exist is not, therefore, considered to be a vice in a politician, particularly when he is in office.

"Ah!", the critics of consensus will retort, "we have no objection to the genuine popular consensus which, of course, accords entirely with our point of view, what we complain of is the artificial consensual consensus against the people in which the political establishment is always tempted to engage."

But in what does this popular consensus consist? It has been the same throughout the whole post-war period, and it has consisted in passionate support for a number of mutually incompatible objectives — lower taxation, full employment and no inflation, higher public expenditure on welfare, a caring, interventionist state but no bureaucracy. Tactical wisdom in politics is a matter of deciding which of these divergent objects shall be emphasized at any given moment.

Mrs Thatcher has played this game like all her predecessors. When she came to power in 1979 the emphasis had to be put on freedom, low taxation and economic enterprise, but compassion could not be thrown out of the window. The balance she struck, if anything, on the side of too much concern for preserving the welfare system intact. She could well have reformed it more radically without offending any profound public sentiment.

In some ways, she is rather too timid a consensus politician. She sometimes likes to be regarded as a visionary and a radical — which is a bad idea since visions and radicalism are very un-English ideas — but she is as shrewd and dedicated a tactician as any who have preceded her.

There is, therefore, a good deal of consensus politics still going on. Clearly, there is going to be rather more as the election approaches. What, then, about "conspiracy politics" — the consensus within the political establishment designed to prevent the people from getting what they really want? Well, I think there is also quite a lot of that about.

On a whole host of issues — the treatment of criminals, immigration, the surrender of national sovereignty to the EEC, the extent to which the nation's moral convictions should be reflected in the law and the case for foreign policy directed to the defence of national interest rather than the promotion of universal ideals — the people have no say at all. This is the balance which I shall try to redress in this column.

The author, formerly assistant editor of the Daily Telegraph and now on the staff of The Times, will write regularly on this page.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Keeping the record bent

Today I am proud to be able to bring you exclusive extracts from a new book out soon, *The Guinness Book of Business Records*. It lists some of the most amazing and unbelievable facts about the business world. Frankly, I'm not sure I believe all of them myself, but if they should turn out to be wrong, I'm sure we can find someone to resign over it. Here is a selection to whet your appetite: ● The biggest number of directors to resign from a company in any one week was 73. The company was Guinness, and the resignations, of which only six were ever made public, took place last week. ● During the same crisis the process of "secondary resignation" was invented. This describes the act of resigning from one company because of what had happened in another company. ● The Guinnessaktienladen in the Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich, is believed to be the only shop in the world which does nothing but buy and sell Guinness shares. It offers its customers unnumbered share accounts, and also a seat on the Guinness board if the purchase is big enough. ● Up to 5 per cent of a glass of Guinness stout is a thick, creamy head. Scraping off this head and drinking the dark stout below is commonly known as "getting rid of the directors". ● Guinness has never tried to take over Pilkington. ● Contrary to popular belief, Guinness is far from being the only stout made and sold in Ireland, as there are other good brands such as Beamish's, Murphy's, and so on. On the other hand, Guinness stout is by far the most successful stout in Ireland. On another hand, you don't get directors resigning from Beamish's and Murphy all the time. ● If all the bottles of Guinness made in a year were laid end to end, most of them would finish up in Switzerland. Probably in an unnumbered bottle bank. ● In merchant banking, the record number of resignations by directors with a drink problem in one week is held by Morgan Grenfell. They all had the same drink problem: a connection with Guinness.

● The largest sum of money ever left in a stout bottle on a company's doorstep is believed to be £8 million. It was left last week on the doorstep of a famous stout company, in used notes, with the message: "Dear lad, this came in very useful last year and thanks a lot for the prompt payment, but things seem to be hotting up a bit so you'd better have it back, hope you survive all right, a fiddler."

● Honestly, Guinness has never tried to take over Pilkington.

● The company with the highest reputation in the world for informativeness is Guinness. Their record books and published statistics are a source of wonder everywhere.

● The company with the lowest reputation in the world for informativeness is also, by coincidence, Guinness. Their unrecorded books and unpublished statistics are a source of wonder everywhere, especially in the City.

● There is no anagram for Guinness. The nearest anyone has got to it is ingenious.

● It is commonly believed that if you remove the label from a bottle of Guinness, you will find a share in the company on the back.

● The instrument depicted on the label of Guinness stout is not a fiddle. It is a harp.

● At least you've got to admit that Guinness never tried to take over Pilkington.

● It is commonly believed that the silliest advertising idea ever devised for a brand of stout was painting the word *Genius* on the side of black taxi cabs. This is not so. The silliest idea ever devised for advertising a brand of stout was inventing the concept of the Society of the Guinnesses.

● No director of Guinness has ever claimed that he might be a prophet chosen by God.

● If you take an empty bottle of Guinness back to an off-licence in Switzerland, you will be given non-voting shares in exchange.

● Well, maybe Guinness did try to take over Pilkington, but it wasn't serious, and anyway they only wanted to make more bottles, so as to get more shares in Switzerland, you understand?

● That funny noise is Arthur Guinness turning in his grave.



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ONE YEAR AT WAPPING

The Times has been published from three sites during its 202 year history. Our first home, by the King's Printing House in the shadow of St Paul's, sufficed for 189 of those years; our second, by King's Cross, for twelve. Today we celebrate exactly one year in our third, a low, red-brick former run store by the former Royal Mint.

It is a hardly less distinguished part of London than Blackfriars and a great deal more so than the Gray's Inn Road; the high-tech office on Virginia Street in which this article is being written was built, in fact, only a few decades after the first copies of our newspaper appeared on the City streets. To future generations Wapping may, indeed, be seen as merely the third station in the passage of The Times. But it is not so seen today.

The squad riot outside our gates on Saturday night was the latest in a series of violent attacks on newspaper workers and the Metropolitan Police that have taken place this year. Like its predecessors it is to be denounced and deplored. Our respect and sympathy goes once again to those injured by brick, spear, dart and petrol bomb on the front line of a free press.

But the political nature of the dispute between News International and its striking former work force has long stretched beyond the activities of militant agitators hiding behind the banners of once-proud unions. For large sections of the respectable Left Wapping has become symbolic of a Thatcherite Britain in which capitalist ruthlessness has to be met with regressive confrontation. And for some on the Right, Wapping has been made a model for the remaking of British industrial power in a world where trade unions have no place and the amoral market rules all.

We assent to neither of those views. The simple facts (which should never be buried by violence or the reaction to it) are that our change of address has freed us from proven anachronistic production methods, proven anarchic trade union chapels, and from financial losses whose unsustainability was never quite proven but which on a number of occasions had come too close to proof for comfort. The peculiar cause and remedy of this curious past are now well known, not least because the move has also freed us from union censorship.

The Times has prospered at Wapping. It has retained and strengthened its essential character. We have received the most remarkable support from our loyal readers — along with your customary stream of criticism and advice.

The events of this year have had a mixture of impacts upon the journalists of The Times.

MRS AQUINO'S UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mrs Corason Aquino of the Philippines is facing the sharpest test of her brief political career as she approaches the first anniversary of her presidency. That an apostle of non-violence, a recent nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, should be indicted for the bloodiest episode in her country's recent history, might be seen by her supporters as one of the tragic ironies of their time. Yet even her staunchest allies in the press are now questioning her competence to govern.

The demonstration by 10,000 peasant farmers which led to last week's violence, contained many disparate elements, whose motives were mixed. It must be acknowledged that the marines, who opened fire with automatic weapons, were provoked and alarmed by the crowd. But this cannot excuse the over-reaction by supposedly elite troops.

Mrs Aquino deserves some credit for responding quickly by announcing an independent inquiry. In distancing herself from the armed forces she has been helped by their chief, General Fidel Ramos — who has himself accused the marines of all too literally jumping the gun. Even so, the incident and her reaction have exposed her to attacks from both left and right.

The suspension of talks between her government and Communist insurgents, which followed last Thursday's street violence, has led to a gloomy prognosis for the 60-day ceasefire, when it comes to an

To work in the crossfire of contradictory political views is a commonplace for us. To live in the crossfire has, understandably, been too much for some. Given the choice, most newspaper men and women would rather make news by reporting it than by being it. We are no different. But in our case there was no choice.

There are certainly Fleet Street reporters who have enhanced their reputation by a brief imprisonment; there are periodicals that gained prestige by a brief banning. The Times has no need of notoriety. It has built its fame over two centuries on being first with the important news and opinion, on being a truly independent paper, on being a truly national paper.

Without the move to Wapping, one year ago today, those traditions would be in peril. They would be in peril not only here but in the homes of younger imitators and competitors who, without our example, would not have the chances that they now enjoy.

To be constantly in the news, as we have been, is to be given one's own fixed place on the crude political map by which the nation steers its course. Our views change as our perceptions of Britain's problems change. But our viewpoint is no different from east London than it was from further north.

We see the international arena as especially little changed — with the hammer of Soviet communism still lying over Eastern Europe and with every apparent shift needing the most sceptical eye. The greatest stain on the history of The Times was left by our appeasement of tyranny. That is not something we will forget.

Our anger for the victims of totalitarian oppression — for refugees from Afghanistan to Thailand, for the forgotten boat people in Hong Kong, for the prisoners of the gulag — may sound to some as a monotonous moan. Let it rather be a monotonous thunder until their plight be eased by all means in our power.

Closer to home there is an impending general election with the diversity of the polls predicting a year of opportunity to all who would take on Mrs Thatcher's mantle, continue her achievements, modify them, make new ones or unmake Tory mistakes. There is good and ill within the main contestants. We should be on the alert for any new authoritarianism in the Conservative Party. The totalitarian strain within Labour has been clearly seen in its leaders' attitude to us this year, in the removal of News International newspapers from their normal place on the library shelves, in the bounding of the Ruskin College lecturer Mr David Selbourne, who dared write in The Times of the militant threat to Liverpool.

And next month. Meanwhile the left-wing Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP) is planning a programme of strikes, blockades and non-cooperation, to "starve" people in the capital and thus force the president's hand on land reform.

It is hard to see how the KMP members can do themselves much good, let alone help anyone else, by refusing to plant crops. But from the president's point of view, it is an unpromising backdrop to her meeting today with left-wing leaders — shortly before a march and protest rally at the scene of last week's shooting.

The KMP denies any connection with the insurgents. But this would not be the first time that it has been involved in violence of one kind or another. There is, moreover, a cause and effect relationship between the need for land reform and recruitment to the 23,000-strong People's Army — which has been fighting government forces in the Philippines for 18 years. It is the shortage of land which drives young men into the hills — and so into the rebel camps.

Mrs Aquino has opposed the radical solutions urged by the KPM (including compulsory takeovers of large private farms), preferring to negotiate an agreed programme with the landlords. But land reform was the most famous promise she made before her accession to power and progress towards fulfilling it has been painfully slow.

The long-awaited realignment of the left has not yet occurred, but beyond the dangers of Labour's non-nuclear defence policy and the leadership divisions that still hamper the Alliance, there are programmes for action to which we will give the most detailed analysis in the months to come. Britain needs to be better educated, better motivated, better employed, better able to learn the skills of breeding excellence. It needs a more consistent concern for the environment, a new pact in the eternal conflict between town and country.

Those to whom the fine print of a Social Democrat housing document is a thing to be missed at all costs may find 1987 to be the year for changing ways. The prospect of a hung parliament is real. It is a better time for perception than for dogma, a time in which The Times will play its traditional independent part in the country's enquiries.

It is too early to say what historians will make of this year gone by. How, for example, will they view the spiked ball bearings, the blackened golf balls, the fireworks and flares? As weapons from a proto-revolutionary arms cache or (in terms taken from our shared anniversary with the death of Kipling) as some ghastly object-lesson from the ineffectual and the hardly literate? We know what we see. None but the fool (and certainly not the journalist whose trade is scepticism) should say how history will see him.

We are safer to restrict ourselves to what we are today. This anniversary finds us somewhat wealthier than we were before, no less wise (and we may hope, a little wiser), but, most of all, healthier. It goes beyond the technological processes for which Wapping has become well known but is also part of them.

The Times was born out of a desire to test a new printing process. At Blackfriars we had the first steam press and the first rotary press; at Gray's Inn Road we were the first national newspaper to have an all-electronic composing room. Nevertheless, as journalists we had become increasingly reluctant to involve ourselves too deeply in the marvellous means by which our newspaper was nightly made. Art was art and craft was craft and rarely (and only under protest) the twain did meet.

A year ago, as well as the overrunning the exploitative "spanish practices" and the interrupted production, there was a sense of alienation in our air. That has now gone. We trust it will never return. We cannot be complacent but we do feel more confident about ourselves. And, with the caution that must be ever by our side, we feel more confident about Britain.

While his congregations were saying prayers for her 54th birthday, Cardinal Jaime Sin, the country's most influential churchman, yesterday blamed last week's violence on her failure to address this long-held grievance. The political lesson of the recent past must be that her programme needs accelerating even if the economic consequences of land reform have too often proved disappointing in the past.

The agreement by the Philippines' main creditors last Friday to reschedule the country's debts, thus reflecting their satisfaction with its economic programme, was the one item of good news in an otherwise depressing sequence for the president. A more welcome one still would be a positive vote in next Monday's referendum on a new draft constitution. This would enable her to remain in power for five more years and lay the secure foundations which she badly needs.

Mrs Aquino is the only president that the Philippines has and in the interests of stability in a strategically important part of the world, it is to be hoped that she can still hold the country together. The alternative could be violence of a more widespread nature than that which occurred last week. But she will need to move swiftly and decisively if she is to outmanoeuvre her growing army of critics. This coming week might indicate whether she has enough political skill and strength to do so.

Resources for foiling fraud

From Mr D. G. Williams
Sir, In the autumn of 1985 you were kind enough to publish a letter from me defending the staff of the Director of Public Prosecutions, for whom I then had the honour to work, against the charge that they were less than vigorous in the pursuit of serious fraud.

The second anniversary of the setting up of the Fraud Investigation Group (FIG) has just passed, and with it my retirement from the office of Controller. Your readers may be interested to learn what FIG achieved in its first two years.

In 1985, 55 trials on indictment were completed, with success in 42. In 1986, 86 trials were completed, with success in 74. In terms of defendants, 195 were tried and 173 pleaded guilty or were convicted in 1986. The sums at risk in last year's trials exceeded £171 million, and the average lapse of time from first reference of a case to FIG to the end of the trial was just under 16 months, shorter than ever before.

It may be thought that these results reflect very great credit upon the staff of FIG and upon the police officers, accountants from the private sector and counsel engaged in their cases. They were obtained, however, in the face of chronic and cynical under-resourcing. Given adequate staff and equipment, FIG could have

done even better — in my view, significantly so.

The proposed establishment of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is a predictable response to justified public anxiety, but the national determination to deal with fraud is truly to be measured by the provision of resources for all the agencies involved. This comment applies particularly to FIG and to the Department of Trade and Industry. The latter, as Mr Leonard Sealey recently pointed out (feature, January 20) in your columns, is especially concerned with such abuses as insider dealing and the purchase by a company of its own shares, presently so disturbing.

In due course (April 1, 1988, has been suggested) SFO will also come on stream, armed with powers denied to FIG. Even with such powers it will not fulfil public expectation unless adequately resourced. In the meantime it is to be hoped that the publicity surrounding the inception of SFO will not provide a smokescreen behind which those responsible for the continued resourcing of FIG and the Department of Trade and Industry can shelter.

Yours faithfully,
DORIAN WILLIAMS,
80 Bodley Road,
New Malden, Surrey,
January 22.

Housing reform

From Mr Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford-on-Avon (Conservative)
Sir, Mr Amery, of the Campaign for Housing Single People (January 15), has a partial view of the problems of homelessness. Many of the problems of homelessness about which Mr Amery complains are in truth the creation of councils like Camden. Camden Council is one of the nation's leading authorities in the mismanagement of its housing.

In the 1970s, on political grounds, it instituted a policy of municipalisation irrespective of its ability to maintain or repair those houses to a respectable standard. Partly as a consequence of this, it presides over one of the largest empires of vacant property in the country. Its ability to bring its property into use, to house the homeless or anybody else, is further compromised by its failure to collect its own rents. Camden's rent arrears amount to £4.4 million, or 25.6 per cent of the entire rent bill. This reduces its ability to house a larger number of homeless families.

Mr Amery is also quite wrong to suggest that building hostels for the homeless is the Government's only answer to the problem of homelessness. The Government's code of guidance on homelessness makes it quite clear that permanent housing should be provided as soon as possible for homeless people.

The hostels initiative, which provides £20 million of public money to gear in an additional £40 million of private finance — an addition of 10 per cent to the Housing Corporation's budget — provides proper self-contained flats through housing associations specifically to take people out of bed-and-breakfast accommodation, and also to help job movers.

In the longer run the Government needs to remove the unnecessary restrictions on hous-

ing provision which have helped to create the homelessness problem in the first place, notably by chocking off the supply of private rented housing.

Yours etc,
ALAN HOWARTH (Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Local Government),
House of Commons,
January 16.

From the Director of Housing for the London Borough of Newham
Sir, Your article on John Patten's new ideas about privatising council housing (January 8) quotes the minister as saying that two thirds of the housing stock in Newham is owned by the council. The correct proportion is 37 per cent. We reported the relevant figures at March 31, 1986, to Mr Patten's department last July; the proportion has changed very little for some years.

We in Newham would agree with the minister's remarks about the huge problem of the poor design of the past have created for housing authorities and about the difficulty of managing a housing stock as big as ours. Mr Patten's predecessors (of both parties) contributed as much to the creation of these problems as councils did. We are now, in common with other authorities in the same position, working hard to develop solutions; we think our ideas are more realistic than Mr Patten's.

Mr Patten says he wants to stimulate debate. We are ready to meet him to explain our solutions and to discuss his. If he came to Newham he would also have the opportunity to count our council houses for himself; they're the ones that won't be painted or maintained next year unless Nicholas Ridley changes his mind about rate-capping!

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SIMONS,
Director of Housing,
London Borough of Newham,
91 The Grove, Stratford, E15.

Lost to Britain

From Professor P. F. Baker, FRSE
Sir, Mr Alistair Horne (December 30) asks a very specific question: what is wrong with British high tech? I suspect rather little; but there has been and continues to be a very serious failure on the part of much of British industry to make full use of the new ideas and expertise available in the universities.

The development of radar in the UK during the last war was made possible by the skilful bringing together of an impressive cross-section of the nation's talent. While such single-mindedness is unlikely to be achieved in peace-

time, much more could and should be attempted. There seems little point in sheltering behind pleas of industrial or defence secrecy only to see crucial orders lost to overseas competitors.

We must find ways to ensure an early and wide involvement of the nation's expertise in solving important national projects. While the Royal Society and Fellowship of Engineering might possibly give a lead, the most effective solution would be to involve more practising scientists at the highest levels of industrial decision-taking.

The statutory appointment of active university scientists to the boards of all UK-based companies might be one small step in the right direction. Just as the financial management of every company must satisfy an independent firm of accountants, one could look for a firm in which industrial involvement and achievement in research and development will be subject to similar demands and scrutiny.

Yours faithfully,
P. F. BAKER,
King's College London,
Strand, WC2,
January 3.

A study of waste

From Mr David Perchard
Sir, May I assure Ms Vinograd (January 14) that the US experience of returnable beverage container legislation has been thoroughly examined on this side of the Atlantic.

I was a member of the Waste Management Advisory Council's Packaging and Containers Working Party, which reported in 1981 to the Department of Trade and Industry. We quickly decided that foreign experience was difficult to apply to this country and we went on to conduct a very detailed analysis of the situation in the UK (Study on Returnable and Non-returnable Containers, HM Stationery Office).

We found that the elimination of beverage containers from domestic waste would produce no measurable savings in waste collection costs. Nor would an all-returnable system do much to curb littering. People who do not take the trouble to dispose of a lightweight one-trip container properly are unlikely to bother to return a sturdy returnable bottle to the shop where they bought it —

Hospices at work under difficulty

From Dr John Searle
Sir, Many people will welcome the news that the Government is considering setting up a network of hospices and community hospice teams to care for those dying from Aids. The hospice movement has certainly developed knowledge and skill which is so relevant to terminally ill Aids patients.

In Exeter, for example, a team of four nurses, a social worker and over 40 trained volunteers work closely with family doctors enabling many patients with terminal cancer to be looked after at home. The quality of life achieved is often remarkable. There are similar schemes in many other areas.

A majority of these are funded largely from voluntary sources. The DHSS has paid frequent lip service to the work they do but health authorities have been unable to give them adequate financial support. The Aids epidemic ought to make the Government face up to its responsibilities for other terminally ill patients which have been carried by the hospices for so long.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. SEARLE,
8 Thornton Hill, Exeter, Devon,
January 19.

Museum problems

From Sir Denis Mahon, FBA
Sir, The "Spectrum" article on museums by Simon Tait (January 21) explains the role of the Museums and Galleries Commission, the responsibilities of which have been so much enlarged in recent years and which has just received the accolade of a royal charter.

However, by an oversight no mention was made of the extremely important fact that the commission has now taken over the administrative function of advising the Minister for the Arts in connection with the acceptance of works of art and museum objects by way of payment in kind of inheritance-tax liabilities.

The MGC is only too well aware that this system of so-called "acceptance in lieu" (provided that the incentives to resort to it are improved and the existing machinery within which it operates is made more expeditious and fairer) could play an absolutely essential part in relieving some of the grave problems arising from the shrinking capabilities of our public museums for adding to their collections.

Despite the fact that what is required has been fully explained, not least in a letter to you from Sir Nicholas Goodson, as Chairman of the National Art-Collections Fund, as long ago as August 9 last year, nothing is being done. But it seems evident enough that, for the private sector to play a fuller part, more encouragement is necessary. It is positive action, rather than just words, which is now most urgently required.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1,
January 21.

Multiplying magpies

From Mr Toby Bromley
Sir, On my farm magpies used to be comparatively rare, but now they are present in dozens, and at the same time my garden has almost become an avian desert — the flycatchers, wagtails, chaffinches, thrushes, nuthatches and suchlike have almost entirely disappeared.

I submit that the magpie is the root cause of the disappearance of these birds: they are voracious killers and will take eggs, fledglings and young birds that have recently left the nest with equal ease. And I do not know how to reduce their numbers; shooting is no solution as their destructive capabilities are exceeded only by their intelligence.

Moreover, when I am driving in other parts of the country, my observation is that this increase in magpie numbers (and this no doubt applies to carrion crows as well) is general. I wonder whether any of your other readers have observed an increase in numbers of the *corvidae* accompanied by the disappearance of other small birds?

Yours sincerely,
TOBY BROMLEY,
Ashley Manor,
King's Somborne,
Stockbridge, Hampshire.

even in 1981, some £18 million was wasted on unredeemed deposits.

Littering will be beaten by changing people's attitudes, not by tinkering with drinks distribution systems. How sensible is Ms Vinograd's idea of returning empty cognac bottles to France, or wine bottles to Italy? How will this help to deal with major sources of litter like uncovered dustbins, mismanaged trade waste, badly loaded lorries or construction-site refuse?

The EEC has already produced a directive aimed at reducing the impact of beverage containers on the environment. While this is hardly a major environmental problem, the adoption of practical steps to develop recycling where there is a demand for the materials reclaimed and to reduce the quantity of raw material needed to make new containers is much more relevant in the UK context than the draconian legislation which has been rejected or ignored by some 40 American states.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PERCHARD,
23 Kingsbury Avenue,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.



ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 26 1859

Burns's birth will doubtless always be celebrated, but surely will never again evoke such devastating criticism as the following account. "The death of a Saxon musician..." refers to the Handel Festival of 1887.

BURNS COMMEMORATION AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE

This long-expected event came off yesterday in due course, and was attended by one of those enormous crowds only to be met with at the Crystal Palace, because no other building is large enough to hold them. In what way the centenary anniversary of the Scottish poet's birth could possibly concern the Crystal Palace... might possibly have been thought questions worth considering, were it not a well-known fact that such exhibitions (which have been growing into fashion of late) are neither better nor worse than vehicles for bringing in money. The directors of the Crystal Palace want money. They made money by celebrating the 100th anniversary of the death of a Saxon musician two years in advance of the date...

Soon after the doors were thrown open visitors began to arrive in considerable numbers; and long before the hour appointed for commencement the trains, both from Finsbury and London-bridge, were pouring in their hundreds without cessation...

At 2 p.m. the concert began; and this feature in the day's amusements must, in strict justice, be condemned as utterly unworthy the Crystal Palace and the occasion. The overture to *Guy Raverham*, performed by the band of the establishment, under the direction of Mr. Mann, being a pot-pourri of familiar Scottish airs, was quite in keeping; nor, considering that the festival was in commemoration of Burns, could anything have been more appropriate than a selection of the songs of Burns, set to the national melodies of his country. But, except the instances of Miss Dolly and Miss Ransford, the singing was as bad as could well be imagined; and the miserable expedient of a pianoforte (sic) accompaniment in so vast an arena, and one so hopelessly unaccommodating to the transmission of sound, produced an effect verging upon the ridiculous.

The important event of the day was now at hand, the opening of the sealed envelope containing the name of the author of the Prize Poem — the Fifty-guinea Ode to Burns, "not less than 100 nor more than 200 lines in length," the length of which becomes the property of the Sydenham donor. "The attention was the attention which the short preliminary address of Mr. Phelps was intended to draw to the subject. The popular tradition, with lungs of Stentor, said, — "I am requested to break this seal, and to announce the name of the author of the poem I am about to read to you." Everybody understood what was to follow; and, in order to elicit the desired attention, there was no necessity whatever for hanging out that large red cloth over the balustrade of the orchestra, upon the word "Silence" inscribed upon it in staring white capitals. The prize poem was the work of a lady — "Isa Craig" — a communication hailed with reiterated plaudits. Mr Phelps then declaimed, in that grave and weighty style for which he is notorious, the following

ODE ON THE CENTENARY OF BURNS.

"We hail, this morn,
"A century's noblest birth;
"A Poet peasant-born,
"Who more of Fame's immortal dowry
"Than all her kings!"

(Here followed the remainder of the poem — 14 verses in all)

... The second part of the concert began. This, looked at from an artistic point of view (notwithstanding the printed admonition — "Visitors are particularly requested to join in the choruses") was almost as flat and quite as unsatisfactory as its predecessor. The subjoined pieces were introduced: — "Auld lang syne," and the National Anthem, to which the following occasional stanza, written by Mr. T. Oliphant, Hon. Sec. to the Madrigal Society, and Poet Laureate to the Crystal Palace, was appended: —

"Long live her daughter fair,
"Lov'd wife of Prussia's heir,
"And future Queen,
"On this, their wedding day,
"Sing we a joyful lay:
"God bless them both, we pray,
"God bless the Queen? [sic]"

Thus ended the "Centenary celebration of the birth of Robert Burns," which may have brought money, but has certainly brought little credit to the Sydenham Palace. The thing should have been done on a more liberal and efficient scale, or not at all — better, perhaps, not at all.

Bit of a handicap

From Mr Alastair Down
Sir, The Chancellor's decision to present his Budget on March 17 — Champion Hurdle day — is surely ill-advised.

Over the years many MPs, including party leaders and privy councillors, have been observed at Cheltenham on that day, paying rather more attention to the balancing of their own books than those of the country.

Mr Lawson would do well to budge it.
Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR DOWN,
The Sporting Life,
81-89 Farringdon Road, ECL.

26/01/87 1:50

200 injured during Wapping's worst night of violence

Continued from page 1

should now be rigorously enforced.

Attempts by print union leaders, Miss Brenda Dean, of Sogat '82, and Mr Tony Dubbins, of the National Graphical Association, to justify the continuation of the dispute were lost in the wind as the demonstrators turned their backs on them and concentrated on attacking the police.

Police believe that about 40 per cent of the crowd, estimated at 12,000, who had marched to the plant to mark the first anniversary of the dispute, were not print union members.

At the height of the riot, Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said that if Labour wanted to win the next election, it would have to do it with "extra-parliamentary activity" and "win it on the streets".

Mr Jones said that an unsuccessful attempt was made to ignite petrol which had been spilled from a five litre can onto the road in front of police horses. "It is an absolute tragedy, that one again we have witnessed the action of demonstrators whose sole intention was to attack police officers who for long periods were the subject of a terrifying barrage of horrific weapons causing many injuries."

Commissioner Jones added: "The sole intention seemed to be to inflict injuries on police officers and it is a matter of personal regret to me that scenes such as this should be seen in London during the course of what those who support it allege is an industrial dispute."

"Not one of the many speakers who had the advantage of high amplification made any attempt to control the demonstrators or to prevent them throwing missiles or to condemn those who threw them."

After the violence abated in

the early hours of yesterday morning, the police gathered up the fearsome arsenal used against them: spears, hammers, jagged metal, sharpened stakes, broken paving stones, ball bearings, fireworks, thunderflashes, coins and full cans of lager.

At least one petrol bomb was thrown at police lines from the jeering demonstrators who had tried to set alight a lorry they had overturned. It had been carrying a band which led the two-mile march.

The first police mounted charge came after about two dozen masked youths, many drinking from whisky bottles, ignored a call for restraint from a union official and began to hurl missiles.

The majority of marchers did not take part in the battle against the police.

Attempts by union leaders to address the marchers were abandoned as police confronted hard-line demonstrators, many of whom had been urged to attend by the Stalinist London Communist Campaign Group.

Other demonstrators came from various hard left Trotskyist, anarchist, Militant Tendency and Socialist Worker groups who have latched onto the dispute because it is, in their jargon, the "most identifiable manifestation of the struggle against capitalism" in Britain. They displayed the head of a pig attached to a post.

For News International, Mr Bill O'Neill, managing director of London Post Printers, condemned the violence as "a demonstration of brute force" and said the attempt to stop production and distribution of *The Sunday Times* and *News of the World* had failed completely.

"The union leaders are well aware that these organized marches end in violence. The tragedy is that it has cost so many police injuries."



Demonstrators overturned a lorry leading a two-mile march to the News International plant.



A demonstrator confronting riot police as 12,000 people joined the east London march. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Jones

BT accuses engineers

Continued from page 1

secretary. He said: "The union has made it absolutely clear that in no way will it countenance sabotage. If BT have any evidence at all they should state this clearly and we will immediately start an investigation."

Today Mr Golding will meet management in an effort to resolve the dispute. Although it is ostensibly over the union's rejection of a backdated pay offer said to be worth 7 per cent, it has widened to embrace ideological differences between the union

and the privatized company. BT said yesterday that the meeting would bring no improvement in the pay offer.

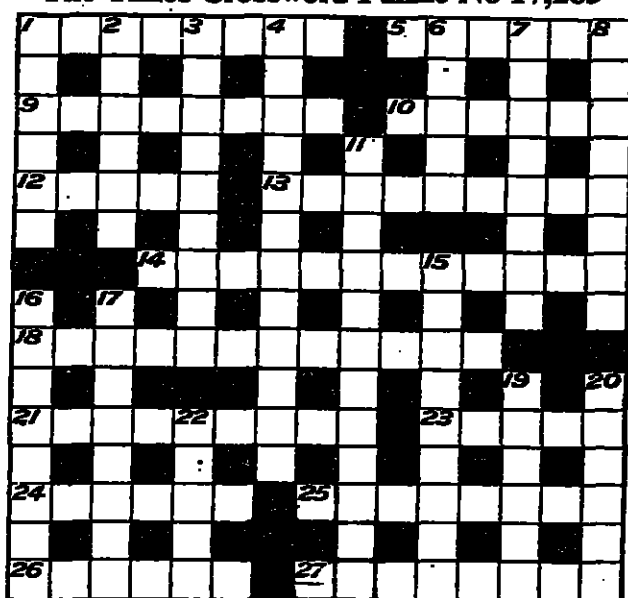
In full-page national newspaper advertisements yesterday, BT said it wanted changes to enable it to "get rid of old-fashioned, unhelpful working arrangements."

It wants to "end the artificial rigid distinction between installing and maintaining equipment, so that one engineer, in one vehicle, can visit customers to carry out either task, assigning work more flexibly."

Today's events

The Duchess of Kent opens Benwell Day Centre, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, 2.30. Exhibitions in progress. Photographs by David Bailey.

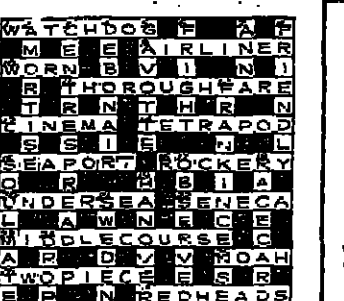
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,263



ACROSS

- 1 Suggestion leads to autumn bonanza (8).
- 5 One may be fired and end up a jail-bird (6).
- 9 In flight, though originating in a Yorks river (8).
- 10 Largely disreputable quarters for one often 9 (3-3).
- 12 Subaltern returns carrying uncooked fish (5).
- 13 One girl holds another to be fictitious (9).
- 14 Pinetop Smith's noted rhymes? (6-6).
- 18 Following tradition and meeting a student (12).
- 21 Court opera involved a theatre cat (9).
- 23 One of those open spaces found eternally in Florida? (5).
- 24 Keys given to carrier to sell down the river (6).
- 25 How agreeable it was to know Mr Lear (8).
- 26 Commission for royal artist, eventually (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,254: Times Collins Dictionary. Championship Qualifying Puzzle.



DOWN

- 1 Right in withholding a double (6).
- 2 Girl takes name from the man (6).
- 3 Member not tight, and free to travel (9).
- 4 Delivering coach for disembarkation here (7-5).
- 6 A priest trapped half of them in the outment (5).
- 7 Form of magic Pan found offensive (8).
- 8 Having recently become a union member (5-3).
- 11 She's French, but she's holding a mass protest (12).
- 15 Drink for ape-man who's swallowed a cigarette-end (9).
- 16 Rally and do a bit of cooking (8).
- 17 Even the spineless type will live off the workers (3-5).
- 19 Prohibit stories from this Central American republic (6).
- 20 Vessel jointly operated by Polly and Sukey (6).
- 22 Clearly it's a stitch (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,262 will appear next Saturday

Concise crossword, page 10.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Nature notes

Song thrushes have begun to sing again: their clear, flute-like notes, often repeated several times, are usually followed by some brief, muffled gabbling. Wood pigeons have also resumed their song, a gruff pattern of long and short coos that is never varied. They have also begun their soaring spring display flights. Some collared turtle doves were heard singing even on the coldest days. Magpies are chattering around their old nests: they steer themselves through the branches with their very long tails, which also swell out in the middle like a rubber pipe with a bulge in it. Some uncommon gulls were reported during the cold spell: Mediterranean gulls, which are like black-headed gulls but have a dark line at the front of the wing, not the back, and even rarer, a ring-billed gull that had crossed the Atlantic from north America.

Buds are swelling on the trees. Horse-chestnut buds are fat and sticky; on the aspens the plump, bronze-coloured buds have a green tip. On the evergreen holly oaks, small black buds have appeared in the angles between the twigs - which, like the leaves, are dark above and pale below. DJM

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be raised today at 10.15 am.

Roads

North M1 (South Yorks), major road works between Jns 21 and 25. 30 road closures. M63, Barton Bridge, Manchester, major widening scheme. Lane restrictions and slip road closures. Jct 41 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 41 and Jct 42. Jct 42 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 42 and Jct 43. Jct 43 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 43 and Jct 44. Jct 44 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 44 and Jct 45. Jct 45 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 45 and Jct 46. Jct 46 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 46 and Jct 47. Jct 47 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 47 and Jct 48. Jct 48 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 48 and Jct 49. Jct 49 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 49 and Jct 50. Jct 50 (North Yorks), closure of A1 (North Yorks), between Jct 50 and Jct 51. 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Executive Editor
Kenneth FleetSTOCK MARKET
(Change on week)FT 30 Share
1425.9 (+22.9)
FT-SE 100
1795.3 (+6.3)Bargains
43119 (44842)USM (Datastream)
139.18 (+1.81)THE POUND
(Change on week)US Dollar
1.5255 (+0.0065)
W German mark
2.7817 (-0.0178)
Trade-weighted
68.9 (-0.1)Japan, US
'seek G5
meeting'

Japan and the United States are to press for an early meeting of the Group of Five, the leading economic nations, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's finance minister, said on his return to Tokyo after tough talks in Washington with Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary.

Sources in Tokyo suggested that the two were seeking agreement for a meeting in Paris (the next scheduled venue) on February 7 to discuss ways of stabilizing currency rates - although Mr Baker is thought to be unconcerned about the possibility of further falls in the dollar.

EMS entry can
spell 'balance of
payments crisis'

British entry into the European Monetary System could produce a balance of payments crisis next year, forecasts L. Messel, the stockbroker, in its latest quarterly survey.

Messel expects EMS membership to lead to lower interest rates which would increase the already fast growth in consumer credit. This would, in turn, increase imports, leading to a current account deficit of £20 billion next year compared with only £2 billion if present monetary policies are pursued.

Unemployment is expected
to fall below 3 million by
the end of 1988.

Unemployment is expected to fall below 3 million by the end of 1988, the Director General of Fair Trading said in a report to the Monopolies Commission. The report, which contains specific guidelines on preserving competition, according to economists from the University of Nottingham.

And this should be possible
without intervention from
ministers, say the academics.

In a submission to the Department of Trade and Industry, But they argue that mergers should not be referred on any other grounds, in order to make merger policy more predictable. *Comment, page 19*

RESULTS

TODAY - Interims: Ailsa Investment Trust, Applied Holographics, Border Television, Cantors, Eve Construction, Hilland, Rascal Electronics (results expected on January 27), J Saville Gordon Group, Vibroplant, Finales, Blue Arrow, Habit Precision Engineering.

TOMORROW - Interims: Biotechnology Investments, British Bloodstock Agency, Dale Electric International, Markheath Securities, Mercantile House Holdings, Mhangra Copper Mines, Murray Smaller Markets Trust, Finales, Leda Investment Trust, Microsystems Group, Samuel Properties, Thorpeston Trust.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: BCI Development, Daejan Holdings, Harvey & Thompson, Manmet Holdings, W H Smith & Son (Holdings), Finales, Camford Engineering.

THURSDAY - Interims: Associated Fisheries, BTS Group, Robert M Douglas Holdings, Equipa, Fiolan Group, Home Farm Products, London Shop Property Trust, ML Holdings, Nepeand, FS Ratcliffe Industries, Finales, Allied Textile Companies, Domino Printing Sciences, Edinburgh American Assets Trust, Glass Glover Group, Ernest Jones (Jewellers), A Kershaw & Sons, Klearford, Lonrho PLC, Norsk Data, Rank Organisation, TSB.

FRIDAY - Interims: Arbutnot Yen Bond Fund, Ariel Industries, Bristol Channel Ship Repairs, Bromsgrove Industries, J & J Dyson, Hallite, Haynes Publishing Group, Highgate & Job Group, Nordic Investment Trust, William Somerville & Son, Watsam's, Wholesale Fittings, Finales, Applique, Heavire Brewery.

Talk of bid inquiry adds to pressure on Burton chief

Halpern faces crisis week

By Cliff Feltham

Sir Ralph Halpern, the £1 million-a-year chairman of the Burton Group, is facing a crisis this week as City rumours persist that a top-level investigation is likely to be ordered into the £560 million takeover of the Debenhams stores group.

He also has to defend a controversial multi-million pound share option scheme at the company's annual meeting when shareholders will have been shocked by disclosures at the weekend about his flamboyant personal life.

Burton's shares fell sharply last week on speculation that an inquiry was imminent into how the company clinched victory in the Debenhams takeover battle in 1985.

Government inspectors looking into the Guinness affair have interviewed individuals who also played important roles in the Debenhams acquisition.

Last night, Mr Michael Wood, Burton's finance director, denied reports that the Department of Trade inspectors were considering extending their Guinness inquiry to include Burton.

He said: "We talked to the DTI last week and asked them if they knew anything about this and they said they did not. We took this action because the share price suddenly

started falling while the chairman and I were making a presentation in Zurich. We just do not know what is going on at the moment and why we have become the focus of all this interest."

A Department of Trade spokesman confirmed that no separate investigation had been ordered but admitted that the inspectors could have decided to look into other matters without the department being aware of it.

"The inspectors inquiry remains secret. If they came across other matters and wished to examine them we would not be consulted."

Among the prominent figures interviewed by the inspectors is Mr Gerald Ranson, head of the Heron Corporation, who sold his block of Debenhams shares to Burton in the closing stages of the takeover battle.

The Burton Group feels it is being unfairly linked with the Guinness affair which last week caused the shares to plunge 38p.

The uncertainty of last week was not helped by the continuing controversy over the share option scheme which, in its original form before running into opposition from City institutions, could have been worth £8 million to Sir Ralph

The Burton board were forced to submit the performance-related scheme to searching examination by the Association of British Insurers' investment committee, the watchdog body which vets such schemes and lays down guidelines restricting bonus payouts to four times an executive's salary. The Burton scheme was suggesting eight times salary.

Sir Ralph wrote to his shareholders late on Friday explaining more about the scheme although he did not spell out how the original scheme had altered after City pressure.

It now appears that no one will be able to collect more than £2.5 million in options but shareholders are certain to seek clarification at the company's meeting on Thursday.

Some institutional managers have expressed concern that the real achievements by Sir Ralph and his board in building up the Burton business have been pushed into the shade in recent days because of the furor surrounding the share option proposals.

"The whole affair should have been handled in a much better fashion," said one institution.



Sir Ralph: he will have to defend share option scheme

Firms hope Sizewell
report will lift freeze

By Teresa Poole

Business Correspondent

The power industry eagerly awaits publication today of the report of the public inquiry into plans to build a £1.5 billion Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk, in the hope that it will lift the freeze on new power stations.

All decisions on power plants both nuclear and fossil, have been in abeyance during the lengthy inquiry. It is seven years since the Central Electricity Generating Board placed a power station order and a number of companies are poised to benefit from the onset of any power station building programme.

As well as nuclear plants, the CEGB has said it would like to build two coal-fired power stations this year.

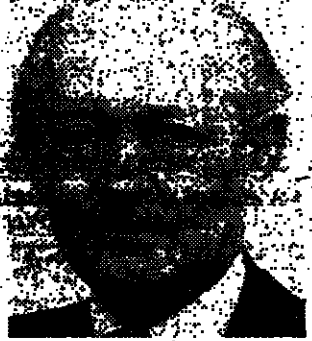
Industry believes that the Government will proceed with a PWR programme unless, contrary to expectations, the report by inquiry's inspector, Sir Frank Layfield, is completely damning.

The CEGB has already committed £122 million towards Sizewell B for design work, software, and items with a long lead time. A go-ahead would trigger a further £325 million of manufacturing contracts which have been placed provisionally.

Included in this is about £100 million of work for GEC for the Sizewell B turbines and about £90 million for Babcock International for the pipe work, lagging and pressure cylinders.

Mr Mike Abrahams, commercial director of GEC Turbine Generators, said: "The power station business is fairly depressed at the moment. We have been relatively successful but it would obviously be a welcome contrast."

A further 95 contracts, including the main civil en-



Sir Frank: his report could pave the way for new jobs

gineering work, are still to be placed and Lord Marshall, chairman of the CEGB, has said that Sizewell B will create 10,000 jobs over the seven-year construction period.

Those which could benefit include the Howden Group, Whessoe, Balfour Beatty, Davy Engineering and other major construction companies.

Weir Group of Glasgow has been awarded work on the feed water pumps and Northern Engineering Industries, has limited work on Sizewell B but plans to bid for work on any further PWRs. The CEGB's preferred programme is for a "small family" of PWRs by the end of the century.

Westinghouse, the US company which designed the PWR, would make the reactor current and Framatome, the French state-owned nuclear power company, would forge the reactor vessel.

British Coal and NEI have the strongest interest in the Government not going ahead with a PWR programme.

Any support from the Layfield report for the claims of the Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactor would be welcomed by NEI, which in 1984 moth-balled its AGR-dedicated works at Gateshead.

£2m profit
defence
at Barrow

By Carol Leonard

Professor Roland Smith, chairman of Barrow Hepburn, the industrial chemicals group, currently leading off a hostile £17.5 million takeover bid from Yule Catto, will be bringing out his formal defence document later this week.

It is expected to include a profit forecast for 1986 of more than £2 million, almost double the £1.2 million earned in 1985.

At the weekend Professor Smith wrote to his shareholders attacking Yule Catto's profit forecast.

Yule Catto, the chemical and plantations company run by Lord Catto - also chairman of the Morgan Grenfell merchant bank - has declared estimated profits for 1986 of £10.7 million, a 5.1 per cent increase on the previous year.

But in his letter Professor Smith says: "These estimated results are still well below those for 1984."

He also says that Yule Catto has failed to disclose figures which show that trading profits from its own managed subsidiaries are on the decline.

He says: "Yule Catto has become increasingly dependent on its share of profits of associated companies, over which it can only have limited influence."

He claims that in 1985 trading profits from its own managed subsidiaries fell by almost 17 per cent, against 1984, and by 18 per cent in the first half of 1986.

He adds that in 1985 Yule Catto employed capital of £67.6 million, more than half in plantations, yet in its 1986 estimates only 6.4 per cent of earnings come from them.

Yule Catto wants to buy Barrow Hepburn, he says "to help it gloss over some of its fundamental problems."

British Airways
share price fixed

By Carol Leonard

The price at which shares in British Airways will be offered to the public was fixed at a secret meeting in Whitehall last night between officials from the Department of Transport, its City advisers and the Treasury.

Although the price will not be made public until 9.30am tomorrow it looks certain to be either 125p or 130p, valuing British Airways at £900 million or £960 million respectively.

There has been keen debate between the City, British Airways and the Treasury during the past week as to which of the two price levels should be used.

The City advisers acting for both sides - Cazenove, Wood Mackenzie and Hill Samuel merchant bank for the Government and Phillips & Drew, Rowe & Pitman and Lazard's merchant bank for the company - are believed to have been unanimous in their recommendation of 125p.

Lord King, chairman of

British Airways, is also known to favour 125p, fearing that a higher price will deter a significant proportion of private investors. But the Treasury has been applying pressure to have the price set at 130p or higher, wanting to maximize the return to the Government.

A spokesman for one of the interested parties commented: "At 130p they might jeopardize the after-market in the shares and for an extra £36 million it hardly seems worth it."

Market research has shown that a large proportion of private investors want to spend a maximum of £500 on the shares. If the share price is fixed at 125p, the minimum application of 400 shares will cost exactly £500. At 130p it comes to £520.

Payment for the shares will be made in two instalments, the first part with the share application form and the second part in August.

Guinness focus
switches to
solicitors' firm

By Lawrence Lever

The Guinness affair spotlight is likely to be turned on Freshfields, former solicitors to Guinness, after publication of a statement which Mr Olivier Roux gave to the Guinness board.

Extracts of the statement in yesterday's *Sunday Times* indicate that Mr Roux, who resigned as finance director, consulted the solicitors on ways of avoiding breaching the section of the Companies Act 1985 which prohibits a company from financially assisting someone to buy its shares, except in limited circumstances.

Mr Roux says: "I was trying to find ways with Messrs Freshfields to satisfy Section 151 of the Companies Act."

"It has to be remembered that this was all done at a time when the involvement in the bid was at its highest... and we were all dead tired."

Last week Mr Hugh Peppatt, Freshfields senior partner, dismissed as "rubbish" reports that Mr Anthony Salz, the Freshfields partner most closely involved in the takeover bid would resign.

Mr Roux says in his statement, however, that he did not take legal advice on the controversial decision to transfer £7.6m to Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank. He says the transfer was intended as a deposit to prevent Ansbacher selling the

2.15 million Guinness shares it held.

Mr Roux explains that the original suggestion for the £7.6m transfer came from Mr Roger Seelig, then of Morgan Grenfell.

"This suggestion was put to me by a reputable banker from a reputable bank," he says.

Mr Roux also says that the £7.6m was not lodged as an indemnity for Ansbacher clients - the deposit was to prevent a sale and thereby protect Guinness's share price.

Mr Roux later indicates that there was an attempt to cover up the true circumstances surrounding the arrangements with Ansbacher. He does not, however, name the person who suggested that he gave to him he gave an alternative version of events.

The statement is also likely to focus attention on Cazenove & Co - Guinness's stockbroker. Mr Roux's letter indicates that the brokers were closely involved in attempts to support Guinness's share price against attempts to depress it by tactical sales.

Roux says Cazenove agreed to counter the tactics by buying Guinness shares for its clients. "Cazenove put their dealers on alert and they declared themselves ready to undertake any orders."

Sir Jack
awaits
his fate

By Our City Staff

Sir Jack Lyons, a director of J Lyons Chamberlayne, the private investment company which received £300,000 from Guinness for services during the Distillers bid, was still waiting to hear last night whether or not he had been sacked by Bain & Co, the US management consultants.

Sir Jack, aged 70, acted as an adviser to Bain & Co, which supplied a number of key personnel to Guinness.

Reports over the weekend that Bain & Co had decided to sever its connections with Sir Jack prompted him to publish a statement, on Saturday afternoon, saying, "I have been unable to obtain confirmation of Bain's intention to draw our relationship to an end. If they do not wish to avail themselves of my advice, why they communicate this to the press and not to me is a mystery."

Bain's other senior London representatives were all unavailable for comment yesterday.

Argyll to
keep open
link option

The Argyll Group is still keeping its options open on the possibility of a link with Guinness. Mr Alistair Grant, Argyll's new chief executive, confirmed last night in a television interview.

He said on Channel 4's *Business Programme* that his group was reserving its position on a possible merger, despite the sharp rebuff from Guinness last week to talks for a friendly merger.

"We have considered the real value to our shareholders of combining the two businesses and at the moment our position is reserved," Mr Grant said.

"The Guinness that now exists isn't quite as healthy a business as the company that apparently was formed when Guinness acquired Distillers," he added.

Mr Grant said that he thought Argyll's main plan was for litigation against Guinness and that it was prepared for a long drawn out battle through the courts, if necessary.

Plea for a
register of
auditors

By Carol Ferguson

A new statutory body, such as a General Auditing Council, to regulate auditors, should be no more than a first step in the regulation of the accountancy profession, according to the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

In its response to *The Regulation of Auditors*, the Department of Trade and Industry's consultative document, the association advocates the creation of a General Accountancy Council to supervise and regulate professional standards.

On the question of independence, the association is not in favour of the rotation of auditors on a regular basis, nor that firms involved in auditing should be barred from offering consultancy services to its audit clients. The association believes that this would simply add to costs. The association has believed in registration of all accountants for the last 75 years, and is using its response to the DTI as an opportunity to reiterate its view that registration is the only effective long-term route towards effective co-ordination of a fragmented profession.

It seeks to reserve the term "accountant" for those who are registered with the "General Accountancy Council". The GAC would consist mainly of the existing professional associations and institutes who would become "registered bodies".

Individuals who wished to practise as accountants would need to be properly qualified and licensed by the council. To practise as an auditor, the accountant would need an additional license.

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Eight firms launch Third Market

New SE baby weighs in

A timber pallet manufacturer, a pasta restaurant chain, and an insurance broker are among the eight companies due to make their debut when the Stock Exchange's Third Market begins trading today.

Others will soon follow and by the end of its first year, according to some estimates, there could be 120 companies trading with a market value of more than £350 million.

The Stock Exchange's chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, is aware that the first few months are likely to be critical for the new market. A bad crash, the discovery of unsavoury characters behind some of the new firms, could kill it at birth.

The new tier market is aimed at attracting small companies needing capital to expand which are not ready for the Unlisted Securities Market or a full listing.



Sir Nicholas: first months are likely to be critical

the Counter market where licensed dealers have bought and sold shares on terms not always in the best interests of investors.

Although the Third Market is likely to attract many companies which would otherwise have gone to the OTC, the biggest potential will come from about 1500 SES (Business Expansion Scheme) com-

panies looking for an outlet for their shares.

But the authorities are keen to stress that the Third Market is a risky enterprise. "Investments will typically be high risk and investors must recognize this and accept its consequences," the Stock Exchange says.

Companies which will be traded for the first time today are: Abelsent Group, a manufacturer of castors; Aberdeen American Petroleum, a minerals exploration company; Allied Insurance Brokers; Catalyst Communications, a public relations company; Eglinton Oil and Gas; Publishing Holdings, which publishes financial magazines such as *What Investment*; Theme Holdings, which owns and operates pubs and restaurants including Fatsos; Pasta Joints; and Unit Group, the largest manufacturer of timber pallets in the United Kingdom.

USM Review, page 18

USM REVIEW

Software firm learns hard way

In its defence, BZW explains that Borland had given warning at the half-way stage that there was likely to be a delay in new product releases and the expected benefit would be unlikely to filter through until next year. In the

Struggling to hold on to profits
Anthony



ts: William Hall, left, and White.

Its shares, issued at 92p, have slithered steadily lower following disappointing interim figures and are now hovering around their all-time low of 68p, capitalizing the Easton Road, London, group at £9 million — almost half its

But for faithful shareholders, who have been waiting patiently for better times, there is now a glint of light at the end of the tunnel.

over the whole of Europe," Mr White said. "Our year-end is March so it won't impact very much on our next set of results but it should have an effect next year."

Carol Leonard

Hille turns homeward to cut import bill



hovering around their all-time low of 68p, capitalizing the Euston Road, London, group at £9 million — almost half its

ers, who have been waiting patiently for better times, there is now a chink of light at the end of the tunnel.

Carol Leonard

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Starting index compared with 1975 was down at 68.9 (day's range 68.5-68.9).

1.9984-1.9939	Ireland
2.3010-2.3052	Singapore
0.5665-0.5705	Malaysia

1

By Judith Huntley

But British pension funds are still investing significantly less in property. In 1980 pension funds had 22 per cent of their portfolios invested in direct property but that has now dropped to 13 per cent.

ABN.....	11.00%
Adam & Company.....	11.00%

Mortgage Base Rate.

	Price	Chgs.	Gross	Net
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

Price C1950 Street Rev

(Percent)		7.3	2.5	17.8
one	+ .6	5.1	2.5	19.4
for Bridge		14.8	4.8	21.0
Products	-0.1	1.1	2.2	2.2
Rail		5.0	2.1	18.5
Resources	-1			6.5
Planning		2.8	2.8	19.0
2002				
Auto		37	41	143
91				2.5
Jan	-2			2.5

... 88	+2	2.30	3.3	15.0
... 32	+1	0.2	0.6	65.3
... 65	-3	4.6	7.4	20.5
... 110				32.6

Base Rate %
Clearing Banks 11

[illegible]

7 days 5% - 6%	1 month 6% - 6 1/2%
3 month 6% - 6 1/2%	6 month 6% - 6 1/2%

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Price index goes back to base for fresh start

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The index of retail prices, perhaps the most-watched official economic indicator, is to take on a new look.

The February figures, to be published in March, will contain significant changes in the index, although they are unlikely to result in differences in the overall inflation picture.

The index is to be re-based to January 1974, effectively taking the great inflation of the 1970s and early 1980s out of the index and into the history books.

The index was based on January 1974 and with the figure then equal to 100, it has been possible to tell at a glance what price changes have since occurred.

Last month, the retail price index stood at 393.9, showing that prices were slightly more than 3.9 times higher than in January 1974.

Some components of the index have risen by far more.

Cigarettes and tobacco are six times their 1974 price, fuel and light more than five times. But consumer durables have increased in price at a lower pace. Last month the index for these goods stood at 267.3. Clothing and footwear also has risen only modestly. Its index last month was 234.

It took about five years for the old index to double to 200. If inflation continues at its present rate of 3.7 per cent, the new index, with January 1974 equal to 100, will not break through 200 until late in 2006.

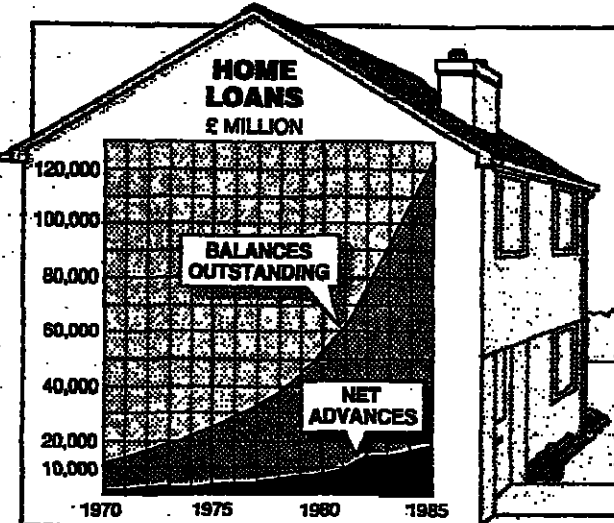
Apart from the change of base, the retail price index is to include some new elements. New cars will be in the index for the first time — under the present system only used car prices affect inflation.

Fees paid by individuals for certain services, including school fees, are to be added to the index, as are foreign holidays.

The changes are in line with last year's recommendations of the RPI Advisory Committee which, to the Treasury's disappointment, did not recommend that mortgages be taken out of the index.

National Home Loans blazes mortgage trail

ANALYSIS



Securitization, as far as most people are concerned, is a remote and even arcane business. But there is no stopping it. Not content with securitizing corporate debt and Third World loans, the people who work in the field are now doing it to the homes of ordinary British citizens.

The secondary mortgage market is upon us. The first mortgage-backed security denominated in sterling was launched last week by National Home Loans Corporation with the help of Salomon Brothers, the New York securities house. It has proved to be a sellout with investors and has blazed a trail through a jungle of legal and tax regulations which others should find fairly easy to follow.

NHL plans a second issue within months and certainly there will be others from institutions such as Salomon's own Mortgage Corporation.

The idea of securitizing mortgages is deceptively simple. You lump a lot of home loans together into a bond issue worth at least £50 million and sell them like any other bond. But the details are

well established, the bonds are guaranteed by federal agencies. In Britain it has to be done privately.

There are three layers of insurance on the NHL mortgage bonds: on all mortgages where more than 75 per cent of the property value was lent, there is indemnity insurance on the excess amount; Sun Alliance has provided indemnity insurance on the whole mortgage pool; Financial Security Assurance has guaranteed the full and timely payment of interest due on the bonds.

Given that mortgage lending is a low risk area already — with well under 1 per cent of defaults — the risk element for holders of the new security is small.

The point of securitizing mortgages is to remove them from the lender's balance sheet to allow him to lend more without gearing up too heavily. NHL was nearly 10 per cent geared on its £100 million capital and the new bond cuts its gearing by nearly one percentage point. It achieved this by transferring the loans to a new company, NHL First Funding, which issued the bond.

The bonds do not work as simply as most Eurobonds. Although their final maturity is in 2013, their average maturity is not likely to be

more than seven years because people usually pay back their mortgages early. Whenever a mortgage in the pool is repaid early, the capital is distributed among the investors along with the regular interest payment.

As more loans are redeemed, the capital value of the bond — and the interest accruing — steadily drops, so there is a clause allowing investors to redeem their notes if the capital value of the mortgage pool drops below £10 million. That could happen well before the year 2013.

The unpredictability of the income flow from the bonds which this implies is a potential disadvantage for investors. No one can foresee how fast the mortgage pool will shrink at any given time. Yet the issue has proved very popular, according to Salomon. Banks and other institutions in Britain, the rest of Europe and the Far East have all shown an interest.

The reasons appear to be partly a hunger for high quality sterling assets. Compared with the dollar Eurobond market, the market in sterling Eurobonds is tiny and consists almost entirely of floating rate issues by building societies such as the Halifax, Abbey National and Nationwide. The NHL issue pays 0.2 per cent over London interbank

offered rate — not an over-generous margin but slightly above the finest rates paid by the largest building societies. Investors, therefore, receive a slight premium for the uncertain income flow in comparison with a normal building society bond which is, effectively, also mortgage-backed.

This may dampen the enthusiasm of larger societies for NHL-style issues. The big societies probably have less desire, at least for the time being, to shift mortgages off their balance sheets. Instead of following the NHL path, they can continue to raise money more cheaply and easily through straightforward sterling Floating Rate Notes (FRNs).

Smaller societies, which are either not allowed by prudential regulations to issue their own FRNs or which would have to pay over the odds because they are a higher risk, will find the NHL style of bond more attractive. Banks wanting to off-load mortgages are also likely to go for the NHL technique.

Even if it means paying slightly more for the privilege,

Rapid growth is inevitable

the bank simultaneously raises money and lightens its gearing — a process which is likely to become popular when new rules on capital ratios come into effect later this year.

It seems inevitable that the market will grow fairly rapidly. For non-deposit taking companies like NHL it is essential that it should, and houses like Salomon — which last year managed about 35 per cent of all mortgage-backed issues launched in the US — has the expertise.

What the new market needs is some ground rules. To this end a committee of representatives of the mortgage industry and the Treasury has been meeting to thrash out a basic code of conduct.

It lays down, for example, that whatever company issues the security, the company which originally lent the mortgage should continue to deal with the borrower. This will minimize the disruption caused to ordinary individuals. Likewise, the decision on when and how to move the mortgage rate will remain with the originator of the loan.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Changing the priorities for merger policies

COMMENT

Takeover mania has come to a juddering halt and is unlikely to recur in the same form until the latter stages of the next bull market. There will therefore be a strong inclination in the City to forget about the issues that have loomed ever larger over the past few months.

But the issues of efficiency and the short-term view will not go away. And City scandals have turned the political climate against takeovers, pointing to greater Whitehall control unless the debate is fully joined.

A timely run around the issues has been provided by Professor Brian Chiplin and Dr Mike Wright of the University of Nottingham. They have prepared a paper for the Institute of Economic Affairs, which has been sent to the Department of Trade for its review of competition policy and will be published as soon as possible.

Up to 15 years ago, economists were generally against takeovers and mergers, because increasing concentration distorted the market for goods, the drive to monopoly being the greatest danger Adam Smith himself saw in the operation of the market. In recent years, however, they have swung round. Now they are against restraints on takeovers because they distort the market for capital and for companies.

Chiplin and Wright clearly adhere to this latter school. But their lucid exposition helps to explain why this has changed. Undoubtedly, one problem is that the whole question of competition has become ever more blurred, not least by conglomerates. Should we be thinking of local, national, European or world markets, for instance?

Economists, like policy makers, have taken an increasingly financial rather than industrial view of the economy. Merger policy now involves a series of different markets whose requirements may conflict. Alongside the market for goods, is the growth of competition in the market for financial products, requiring short-term performance by investment managers.

Within the securities market, takeovers are seen as the market for corporate control. Economists and the City presume that those who can pay the most for assets will use them most efficiently by extracting the biggest returns for shareholders.

But this market might itself be distorted by the growth of an industry around the takeover market itself. Stockbrokers, merchant banks and underwriting institutions all need takeover business, which is supplied by the aggressive corporations. They provide also a service for institutional investors in obviating the need for them to chivy recalcitrant managers.

A second fundamental change has been the increasing divergence between

a company and its businesses. The growth of one may be unrelated to the growth of the other. In the extreme case, takeovers enable firms to grow without the businesses they own growing, to invest huge sums without adding anything to the stock of assets, to introduce new products without doing any development and to enter new markets without adding to output or competition there.

As Chiplin and Wright point out, "acquisition is generally seen as part of the growth process of the firm" and since growth is the best protection against takeover, firms which want to avoid becoming victims have joined the predators' game.

Even if institutions took a truly long view of investment, certain problems of takeovers might arise, such as the cumulative effect of denuding the provinces of big companies, or dangerously increasing corporate debt, which either do not fall in the market's ambit at all or are largely irrelevant to each individual case. Here, the tax system might be used as an effective counter.

The biggest danger is that industry, the City and institutional investors become preoccupied with the control and returns from existing assets instead of the growth of actual businesses. In this sense, the world of finance mirrors only the national preoccupation with the distribution rather than the creation of wealth.

The message here is that whatever happens to public policy over mergers, the present flexibility is a virtue. A ban or a free for all would be equally undesirable. Rather, priorities change.

When Mr Norman Tebbit declared that references of bids to the Monopolies Commission should be primarily on competition grounds, the economy was in a phase where improving efficiency, cutting dead wood and restructuring industries were urgent and top priorities. Therefore, it was a good idea to improve the market for corporate control by reducing the uncertainty of Monopolies Commission references.

Today, the priorities are swinging back. Much has been done to rationalize companies and industries, to cut costs and raise efficiency. The threat posed by predators has worked as well as the actual takeovers. Now, wealth creation, investment, research and the underlying growth of companies are more important.

The balance needs to swing against takeovers, in terms of public policy, the relations of companies with their institutional investors and the rules of the game. But it should remain a balance.

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Investors need to be reassured

not so easy. For example, you have to convince investors that the mortgages securing the bond are a good credit risk. NHL's solution was to acquire a Standard & Poor's rating.

S&P gave last week's issue an AAA billing. In the process it had to learn all about the British mortgage market from scratch. Before it would give the bond such a high rating, it stipulated tight conditions. To achieve a safe geographical spread, for example, no two mortgages included in the bond could come from the same postal district.

Adequate insurance was also essential to reassure investors. In the US, where the multi-billion dollar secondary mortgage market is

GILT-EDGED

The market will be vulnerable to any weakness in sterling

The gilt-edged market continues to be dominated by British politics and external events. The external side has recently been more volatile, although the underlying improvement in the Government's opinion poll rating has certainly helped the market.

The strong market rally in recent weeks has taken us back to about the 10 per cent yield level, but any further significant progress in the near-term looks likely to depend heavily on sterling and other external factors.

A renewed fall in the dollar has been the headline item and there is every reason to believe that it has not yet ended. This decline in the dollar, as represented by the standard trade-weighted index, is deceptive because they ignore the fact that the dollar has fallen hardly at all against the currencies of some of America's most important trading partners, such as some of the developing countries in South East Asia and Latin America.

Broadening the dollar index to include these currencies suggests that the dollar's decline since early 1985 has been minimal: the broad index developed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas has fallen by only 7 per cent from its peak in March, 1985.

There is a further adjustment, however, which is the other way. To assess properly the magnitude of the fall in the dollar it is necessary to consider it in real terms — adjusted for inflation differentials — rather than in nominal terms.

Relative to some of the South East Asian countries this does not make much difference, but it has a considerable impact for the high-inflation Latin American economies.

Adjusting the Dallas index (a new broadly-based trade-weighted dollar index) for this factor shows an average dollar-fall since early 1985 of more than 15 per cent. This is much less than the 27 per cent decline in the Bank of England's dollar index, but it is still considerable. The US trade deficit is now so big, however, that even this drop is probably not big enough to correct the imbalance.

In addition, capital flows into the US are not being helped by recent changes in bond yields. US Treasury bonds now yield only 1 per cent more than German bonds, against a 4.5 per cent differential in early 1985.

There has been a similar fall against Japanese bonds,

from almost 5 per cent to under 2 per cent. It is, therefore, no surprise that the dollar has not yet stabilized and that the corresponding currency appreciation has been concentrated on the yen and the mark.

Given the continuing currency movement, there will inevitably be further interest rate falls outside the US. In particular, attention has been focused on Germany and Japan.

Before Thursday's discount rate cut in Germany, the Bundesbank preferred to spend billions in an attempt to prevent the mark from rising too far rather than announce a formal easing of monetary policy. But with pressure continuing, it gave in and cut the discount rate in preference to a second European Monetary System realignment so soon after the first.

The situation is less clear in Japan, although the economy remains sluggish. The problem there is more related to lack of fiscal stimulus, but a significant change in the planned budget for the coming year appears unlikely.

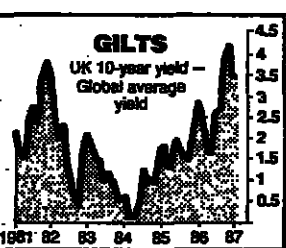
As a result, there is pressure on the yen to appreciate further and another cut in Japanese interest rates must be likely. This would take some pressure off Britain and could provide the opportunity for British interest rates to follow others downwards, but not necessarily immediately.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, clearly said in his Autumn Statement that sterling — then about 69 on its index — had fallen enough in response to the sharp decline in oil prices over the preceding year. Since then, there has been a 20 per cent rebound in oil prices.

This suggests, on the Chancellor's own analysis, that sterling should have recovered some of its earlier fall. The improvement in the Government's poll-rating should have meant the same. In spite of this, sterling has not recovered.

One factor which has continued to put pressure on sterling has been the sharp deterioration in Britain's balance of payments. We expect to receive confirmation in December's trade figures, released this week, that the current account moved into a small deficit during 1986.

There has, of course, been a considerable deterioration in



non-oil trade, much of which is the J-curve effect, but some of which is the result of the acceleration in British economic activity being concentrated in consumer spending, thus increasing imports.

A second possible reason for the relatively weak performance of sterling is a fresh worsening in the capital account. This could, in principle, be a result of excessive domestic monetary growth. Clearly, if the money supply grows much faster than the demand for money, the excess will begin to spill over abroad. Has this process, which would inevitably put downward pressure on the exchange rate, been at work recently?

The broader measures of money supply have been buoyant for more than a year. Last week's provisional figures showed that the annual growth rate of sterling M3 to December 31 was 18 per cent. There is no sign of a slowdown.

Perhaps even more important is the further acceleration in the narrow money measures, for example M0. Many commentators conclude that monetary policy is lax and they expect this to continue until after the election. Our view is that this is an incorrect interpretation of events.

The monetary aggregates, especially M0, are merely responding to the rise in the value of retail sales. Consumers' expenditure is buoyant largely because wages are increasing much faster than inflation. One result of this consumer boom is that the narrow aggregates reflect the increase in the demand for money rather than a deliberate expansion of its supply.

The authorities have not ignored this monetary buoyancy. Interest rates were raised in October when sterling was weak and when M0 began to accelerate.

The Chancellor has repeated more than once that he will respond to excessive growth in M0 by a rise in

interest rates. But he is likely to raise interest rates only if other indicators, especially weak sterling, confirm the need.

A second and more important factor affecting capital account transactions concerns relative international yields. The chart shows that the difference between British, 10-year gilt-edged yields and those prevailing on average abroad.

It will be seen that there has been a fall of one point in the differential since its peak. In our judgement the differential is now approaching its minimum sustainable level, given the other factors at work — like oil prices and politics.

The crucial question is whether sterling will weaken again. Certainly, the factors behind the weak dollar have not improved. Indeed, the trend in relative bond yields provides less support for the dollar.

After the cut in the German discount rate, there may be a temporary dollar rally. Despite the dollar having fallen sufficiently to have made US production generally competitive against most major developed economies, the balance of payments flows and recent experience of currencies overshooting suggest that a turning point for the dollar has not yet been reached.

The outlook for sterling must, therefore, be considered against the prospects of a generally weak dollar.

Gilt-edged yields have fallen by more than 1 per cent since their peak late last year. The market has been helped by falling short-term interest rates abroad, generally improved Government ratings in opinion polls and rising oil prices, all of which have been positive for sterling.

However, after the recent sharp fall in gilt-edged yields compared with those in other Government bond markets and with a balance of payments current account deficit, the gilt-edged market is vulnerable to any weakening in sterling.

Robert Thomas and Kevin Boakes

Mr Thomas is director of sterling bond research and Mr Boakes is senior gilt-edged economist at Greenwell Montagu, the broker.

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FACULTY OF DIVINITY

Lecturer in Reformed Theology

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Reformed Theology in the Department of Systematic Theology with effect from 1 October 1987.

Further particulars can be obtained from:

The Personnel Office,
63 South Bridge,
Edinburgh,
EH1 1LS

with whom applications by letter (6 copies) including curriculum vitae and the names of two referees should be lodged not later than Monday, 9th March 1987. Please quote reference no. 1277.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery

Applications are invited for the Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery which will become vacant on 1 October 1987, following the retirement of Professor R. Owen. The successful candidate will be the Head of the University Department of Orthopaedic and Accident Surgery and be responsible for undergraduate teaching, the postgraduate programme including the M. Ch. Orth. and the promotion of research in the Department.

The salary will be within the range approved for clinical professorial salaries (currently up to £30,340 per annum) and initially will depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Interested parties are invited to contact informally Professor F. Harris, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Tel: 051-709 0141 ext. 2743.

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 28 February 1987, by the Registrar, The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Tel: 627095.

Quote Ref: RV/343

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

CHAIR OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the post of Professor of Education, tenable from 1 September 1987. The School of Education is further expanding its work in primary education which already involves several hundred students and a large group of tutors working at all levels including initial training (B.Ed and PGCE), in-service and higher degree work. It is hoped to appoint someone who has made a significant contribution to primary education, but candidates with expertise in other aspects of education are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have a successful record in both teaching and research.

Salary will be on the agreed Professorial range, current minimum £19,010 per annum (under review).

Further particulars are available from:

The Personnel Office,
University of Exeter,
Exeter EX4 4QJ.

Closing date for receipt of applications 27 February 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

DIRECTORSHIPS IN THE INSTITUTE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES

Applications are invited for two newly-established Directorships in the Institute of Local Government Studies. These are to lead the Institute's activities in, respectively, the areas of Local Government Studies in Britain and of Public Sector Management in the Third World. The University is ready to establish Chairs for the tenure of candidates of appropriate distinction.

Salary in the professorial range, plus superannuation.

Further particulars for each post available from:

The Vice-Chancellor,
University of Birmingham,
PO Box 363,
Birmingham B15 2TT

To whom applications (15 copies: 1 from overseas applicants) should be submitted by 28 February 1987.

An Equal Opportunities Employer

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

LECTURESHIPS IN ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for three Lectureships in the Department of Economics. Candidates for two of the posts may have research interests in any area of economics in which the Department is currently active and, in addition, in urban economics or financial economics. For the third post (available for three years in the first instance) candidates should have an interest in a quantitative approach to development economics. Salary on the Lecturer Scale: £8020 - £15700 p.a. (under review).

Further particulars and application forms from:

The Registrar,
University of Warwick,
Coventry
CV4 7AL
(0203 523627)

Quoting Ref. No. 27/3A/86/1. (please mark clearly on envelope). Closing date 21st February 1987.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

FACULTY OF DIVINITY

MELDRUM LECTURESHIP IN NEW TESTAMENT LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND THEOLOGY

Applications are invited for the post of Mel drum Lecturer in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology with effect from 1 October 1987, for a period of seven years, with review at the end of five years and with the possibility of renewal.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University of Edinburgh, 63 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1LS, with whom applications (7 copies) including curriculum vitae and the names of two referees should be lodged not later than Monday, 9th March.

Please quote Reference No. 5435.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Chemical Engineering. Candidates who are professional chemical engineers with substantial experience will be preferred. Research and some teaching experience is desirable, but not essential.

Salary on scale £8,020 - £15,700 (under review).

Further particulars and application forms, available from:

The Staff Appointments Officer,
University of Nottingham,
University Park,
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

To whom they should be returned by 23 February 1987. Ref No 1086.

U.S. INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY EUROPE

TWO VACANCIES EXIST FOR LECTURERS in Mgmt/Finance/Int'l Bus TO TEACH IN AMERICAN DEGREE PROGRAMME IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Both are full time appointments which should attract candidates with at least an appropriate Master's Degree (Doctorate preferred). Teaching and/or Business experience. (International would be an advantage).

Please send C.V. details to: Campus Director US International Univ-Europe The Avenue, Bushey, Herts WD2 2LN, England

USIU-E

POSTS

BRADFIELD COLLEGE READING, BERKSHIRE

(H.M.C. 500 boys)

CRAFT, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Ability to teach to GCSE and A Level required. Excellent new facilities.

CLASSICS Ability to teach to GCSE, A Level and Oxbridge entrance required. An interest in producing the Bradfield Greek Play in 1988 would be an advantage.

Full details of each post are obtainable from:

The Head Master, Bradfield College, Reading, Berkshire RG7 6AR

to whom applications should be made by letter giving a full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees before the closing date of Friday 6th February, 1987.

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS
HEAD OF PHYSICS
HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Full details of each post are obtainable from The Head Master, Bradfield College, Reading, Berkshire RG7 6AR, to whom applications should be made by letter giving a full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees before the closing date of Friday 6th February, 1987.

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HEAD OF MATHEMATICS
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HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING

LECTURER in the Department of Transport Technology

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Transport Technology. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the field of automotive engineering. The post is full time and involves a significant teaching and research commitment.

Salary within the scale £8,020 to £15,700 (under review). The appointment is expected to be made for an initial two-year period starting early in 1987.

Further particulars and application forms are available from: Mr. P. J. Jackson, Employment Officer, College of Engineering, Loughborough LE11 3TU

to whom they should be returned by 23 February 1987. Ref No 1086.

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS
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POSTS

THE MOUNT SCHOOL, YORK (G.S.A.)

Quaker 11-18: 310 girls, mainly boarding (100 in Sixth Form)

HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

Wanted for beginning of Summer Term, or from September, a well qualified and experienced graduate to be responsible for the teaching of Geography throughout the school up to 'A' and 'S' level. We are looking for an imaginative and committed person who is concerned to see Geography playing a vital role in the curriculum and who will also play an active part in the full life of the school. Salary according to Burnham Scale.

Application forms, obtainable from the Headmistress's Secretary, should be returned with the names and addresses of two referees by Monday, 16th February 1987.

Chair in Applied Social Studies

Applications are invited for a Chair in Applied Social Studies. A prime responsibility will be to provide leadership in the area of social work although candidates with a strong record of research in allied fields are encouraged to apply. The person appointed can expect to be designated as Head of Department for five years in the first instance.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP to whom applications (14 copies) should be sent by 6 March 1987. An equal opportunity employer.

University of Bradford

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW PRINCIPAL

Sir Alwyn Williams, FRS, PRSE, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, will retire on 30th September 1988.

The University Court invites any candidate of appropriate experience and background, or anyone wishing to suggest names for consideration, to write in confidence to The Chancellor's Assessor, Robert C. Smith, CBE, MA, LL.D., CA, not later than 31st March 1987.

Communications for Dr. Smith should be sent to him, c/o The Secretary of the University Court, The University, Glasgow, G12 8QQ.

Wiltshire

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The John Bentley (Voluntary Controlled) School, Silver Street

EDUCATIONAL

POSTS

SAUDI ARABIA COMPUTER TRAINING STAFF

Our client a recognised computer training centre in Jeddah urgently requires:

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING TEACHERS

With ability to instruct Saudi students in basic computer programming techniques. Excellent salary and benefits package. Males and females required.

Please phone 01 828 4242

NETWORK (AGY)



CRANLEIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGIST

Required for September 1987 a well-qualified graduate to teach Biology throughout the School to Oxbridge level in a lively Department, well-equipped and with excellent results. Some sporting ability would be an added recommendation. The post would be attractive to someone seeking their first or second appointment.

Further details may be obtained from:

The Headmaster,
Cranleigh School,
Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 8QQ
(Tel. 0483 273997).

Applications, with c.v. and the names and addresses of two referees, should be submitted not later than 9th February 1987.



CRANLEIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF DRAMA

Cranleigh School, which has a long and successful tradition of Drama, wishes to appoint a Director of Drama for September 1987. As well as directing plays, the Director will co-ordinate House and Departmental productions. Also required is the ability to teach English up to A level and Oxbridge entrance.

Further details may be obtained from:

The Headmaster,
Cranleigh School,
Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 8QQ
(Tel. 0483 273997).

Applications, with c.v. and the names and addresses of two referees, should be submitted not later than 9th February 1987.

SOUTHERN DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY SCHOOL OF NURSING SENIOR TUTOR R.N.T., R.N.M. SENIOR NURSE 4

(GRADING SUBJECT TO REGIONAL SURVEILLANCE)
A new post working within the Derbyshire College of Higher Education and the Health Authority to develop ENB Course 811 (Community Psychiatric Nursing) and act as tutor to ENB Course 953 (Developments in Psychiatric Nursing) and act as a resource specialist on the needs of the mentally ill.

For further information please contact:

Mr. D. Green,
Director of Nurse Education,
4th Floor,
Boden House,
Main Centre,
Derby
DE1 2PH.
Tel. (0332) 363971 Ext. 261.

Job description and application form from Mrs. D. Lane, address and telephone number as above, ext. 265.
Closing date 12th February 1987.

Chester College Appointment of Principal

The Governors of this Church of England College of Higher Education (Group 7) invite applications for the Post of Principal with effect from 1st September 1987.

The person appointed must be a Communicant member of the Church of England or of a Church in Communion with the Church of England.

Further details may be obtained from: the Clerk to the Governors, Chester College, Cheyney Road, Chester CH1 4BJ. Telephone (0244) 375444, Ext. 224, to whom letters of application, with full Curriculum Vitae, should be returned no later than 16th February 1987.

HITCHIN GIRLS SCHOOL TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

900 on roll (Sixth form 140)
Required for September 1987, a graduate to teach Mathematics throughout the school to 'A' level, further applied and university entrance. Nearly 50 of the Sixth study 'A' level Maths. Large fully graduate department. Pleasant setting in market town. Scale 2 available for suitable candidate.
Please apply in writing, giving full details of names of two referees to The Headmistress, Mrs G W Warwick, Hitchin Girls School, Highbury Road, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9RT. Tel Hitchin 32162.



CRANLEIGH SCHOOL HEAD OF SPANISH

Cranleigh School wishes to appoint a Head of Spanish from April or September 1987. Candidates should be linguists of high academic ability, experienced in teaching Spanish at all levels including Oxford and Cambridge entrance. The post required familiarity with Spain, a lively interest in Latin America and nineteenth and twentieth century hispanic literature as a speciality. Experience of Sixth Form French language teaching and an interest in twentieth century French literature should also be offered.

Further details may be obtained from:

The Headmaster,
Cranleigh School,
Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 8QQ
(Tel. 0483 273997)

Applications, with c.v. and the names and addresses of two referees, should be submitted not later than 9th February 1987.

MORETON HALL

Shropshire
(GSA, GBGSA)

The Governing Council invites applications for the post of Vice-Principal from September 1987 of this thriving public boarding school of 330 girls with a sixth form of over 100.

Candidates should have a commitment to boarding education. The school is Anglican in tradition but candidates may be of any Christian denomination. The post will be resident and the salary will be as for a Group 8 School; excellent accommodation will be provided.

The Vice-Principal will be expected to undertake some teaching and candidates should indicate their subject specialism.

Further information, including a detailed job description, may be obtained from the Principal, to whom applications with full curriculum vitae and the names of three referees should be returned as soon as possible not later than February 7th. Moreton Hall, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3EW.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH Chair of Classics

Applications are invited for a newly established Chair of Classics in a Department of Classics which will result from the amalgamation of the four existing departments of Ancient History, Classical Archaeology, Greek and Latin.

The successful candidate, who will be a distinguished scholar in any recognised area of classical studies (e.g. history, literature, linguistics, archaeology or philosophy), will be expected to take up the post on 1st October 1987, or as soon as possible thereafter. The salary will be in the Professional range, minimum £18,100 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from: The Secretary to the University, University of Edinburgh, 63 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LS.

with whom applications (12 copies) giving the names of 3 referees should be lodged not later than 23rd February 1987. Overseas candidates need submit only one copy of the application. Please quote Reference 49/87.

AUTHORSHIPS and LECTURESHIPS LLB, BSc (Econ), BA, Law Society, and 'A' Levels

We are a successful group of Independent Colleges with an extensive publishing list and range of courses. In 1987 we will be expanding our activities. We teach and publish student texts including textbooks, casebooks and suggested solutions to examination questions. Are you interested in writing or teaching in these areas? Then apply with full CV to:

Mr D Lywood,
Holborn Law Tutors,
200 Greyhound Road,
London W14 9RY.

IRLEN INSTITUTE

For personal and learning difficulties the following vacancies:

1. Distance therapist/counsellor, qualified with practical experience. Full time/part time.
2. Graduate to be trained as an assistant/therapist in special needs, research project.
3. Administrative secretary, with good skills and office experience. Full time/part time.

Apply in writing with C.V. to:
Executive Director,
Irlen Institute,
Lansdown College,
43 Buntingford Gardens,
Leamington Spa,
CV32 4JH.

SCHOLARSHIPS

QUEEN'S COLLEGE LONDON

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS 1987

Scholarship examinations will take place on 16th - 18th February. Entry is at 11+, 14+ and 16+.

There are 2 entrance scholarships (1/2 of the fees) at 11+ and 14+ and 6 scholarships up to the value of full fees for girls intending to follow Advanced Level courses. Music and Art scholarships are also available at 16+.

For further details please apply to:
Mrs. J.M. Pearce, Queen's College,
43/49 Harley Street, London W1N 2BT.
Telephone number: 01-580 1633.

St. Clare's Oxford

Independent, residential, co-educational college with an international atmosphere. 300 students. 16 plus

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS

for the
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

a two year, six subject course leading to university entry in Britain and worldwide. Ideal for the academic student who wishes to maintain a broad range of subjects.

Scholarship examinations, at St. Clare's, on Saturday 7th March. Further details available from Mrs. R. Kirby, St. Clare's, 139 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7AL. Tel: (0865) 52031.

PREP & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stonar School

Syllabus for Success

The aims of this Independent School for Girls are to provide educational standards of excellence and to encourage and develop to the full the child's own natural potential.

Situated in superb Wiltshire countryside the School is approximately 8 miles from the City of Bath within easy access of the M4.

With 250 Boarders and 100 Day Girls our 'Teacher/Pupil' ratio of 1:10 ensures that classes are kept small. An extensive range of Arts and Science subjects is followed through to A level and University entrance. Sixth Formers enjoy their own hall of residence with study bedrooms and Day Girls are well integrated into the full life of the School.

Stonar's range of sporting facilities includes a covered riding school with working livery, an indoor swimming pool and squash courts.

Entry is from the age of 8 for boarders and 4 for day girls and Open Scholarships are awarded annually for Sixth Form entry. Applications for the Entrance examinations for September 1987 are now being accepted. Informal visits to the School are welcomed by prior arrangement.

For a Prospectus and further information please contact:
The Admissions Secretary,
Room No. 4A,
Stonar School,
Cottles Park,
Awarth, Melksham,
Wiltshire, SN12 8NT.
Tel: (0225) 702309.



THE HARPUR TRUST SCHOOLS FOR BOYS

BEDFORD SCHOOL
Bedfordshire, Bedford
(Tel. 0234 33436)

(Headmaster: S. J. Miller, M.A.)

BEDFORD MODERN SCHOOL
Manton Lane, Bedford
(Tel. 0234 64331)

(Headmaster: P. J. Squire, M.A.)

Schools endowed by the Harpur Trust have provided first-class education in Bedford since 1566. They are guided by the aims of the Governors, which are to promote the highest standards in education; maintain academic excellence; encourage sporting, musical, and dramatic prowess; insist on good behaviour and discipline; and strive to create stability.

Age range from 7 to 18 years. Pupils have a high success rate in G.C.E. 'O', 'A' and 'S' Level examinations and University entrance, including Oxford and Cambridge. Boarding facilities are excellent.

Both Schools will hold open sessions very shortly, where parents interested in entry for children aged 11+ or 13+ will be fully briefed. For details and school prospectus, please write or telephone to the Admissions Secretary of each school at the address above.

Ref: HT6

CALDICOTT

(Boarding & Day Boys)
Preparatory School, I.A.P.S.)

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of academic awards, up to full fees is being offered to boys of high academic potential, currently attending maintained schools, and aged between 10 and 11 on September 1987. Closing date for entries: March 1st, 1987.

Full details and application forms from:

The Headmaster, Caldicott,
Farnham Royal,
Bucks. SL2 3SL.

MILLBROOK HOUSE.

Milton Abingdon,
Oxfordshire OX14 4EL.

Telephone 0235 831237

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SPORT

Forest's tide turns as Everton lose chance to go top

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Nottingham Forest 1
Everton 0

"We are such a genuine side that the tide will turn sooner or later." The words were penned by Brian Clough for yesterday's match programme and by the end of the afternoon covered live on television, Nottingham Forest's sea of fortunes had indeed changed. And only just in time.

Having lost sight of the honours in both domestic Cup competitions during a sequence of eight matches without a victory, Forest had almost been swept away from the shores of the first division title as well. Had they lost to Everton, they would have been left 14 points behind and effectively without hope.

Forest, as Clough consistently maintains, are not realistic champions anyway, but they are one of the most attractive sides in the country. They may not yet be experienced enough to claim any silverware but they are talented enough to win more than a few admirers. Yesterday was no exception.

There were times, and particularly in the heart of the first half, when the second best defence in England were the look of troops, heavily outnumbered in the battlefield. Carr continually embarrassed Power, who was booked and later replaced. Mills scurried ceaselessly down the other flank and Everton could contain neither the elegant Webb

nor the more cumbersome Metgod in the middle.

Forest initially advanced more in hope that they might gain some reward. Everton initially went forward in the conviction that they would. They almost did, too. In one remarkable and early incident, the ball struck a post, a defender's leg and Sutton twice in rapid succession before being cleared.

If Everton might have scored then, they should have on at least four other occasions. Mountfield and Steven twice clutched their heads in displays of guilt and annoyance after missing from close range. They were aware that

More football, page 27

they might pay for their profligacy and Webb made sure that they did.

He started the move, as he did to many others, in the 25th minute by releasing Carr. The winger, as elusive as a puff of wind for Power, chose to dally, a delaying tactic that was to be an infuriating feature of his performance, but more by luck than by design, the ball eventually found its way back to Webb. His strike, though far from clean, was decisive and timely.

Webb's explosive burst at the beginning of the season (he scored 10 goals in the opening seven games), had ushered him into the England squad but he had claimed only two more goals in the last four months.

But the player, who should

be retained by Bobby Robson for the friendly international in Spain next month, may no longer have the security of Bowyer working behind him. Bowyer, running around on 35-year-old legs, is today talking to Blackburn Rovers about the prospect of being appointed as their player manager.

Forest will miss his leadership and will lean even more heavily on Metgod the ageing bald-headed figure who shared the centre of the stage with Webb. The pair were primarily responsible for Everton, who had not dropped a point since December 13, failing to depose Arsenal.

They, in turn, missed senior representatives and especially Sharp, who was withdrawn with a damaged ankle. The contribution of his deputy, Wilkinson, was inconsequential and Heath, for all the energy he expended, was equally ineffective. Walker and Fairclough, once the combination in England's under 21 defence should take credit for that.

Snodin, on his full debut, did nothing to suggest that the sum of his transfer fee, £840,000, is not inordinately high. "We might have been in the semi-final of the Littlewoods Cup and the new leaders of the first division," Howard Kendall said later. "It has not been the best of weeks."

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: G. Sutton; G. Pearson, J. Pearce, D. Walker, C. Carr, J. Metgod, F. Carr, N. Webb, N. Clough, J. Metgod, G. Mills. EVERTON: N. Southgate, G. Stevens, P. Power, (sub: A. Pott), D. Fairclough, D. Mountfield, J. Snodin, T. Slaven, A. Heath, P. Wilkinson, A. Harper, K. Shewell. Referee: R. Lewis.



Webb's winner: Mountfield and Stevens can do nothing about the Forest goal

CRICKET

W Indies the one-day blunders

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Adelaide

Halfway through the qualifying matches in the Benson and Hedges World Series Cup, England, with three wins from their four games, hold the advantage over West Indies (two wins) and Australia (one). On Saturday England beat West Indies as easily as they have become accustomed over the years to losing to them; yesterday West Indies beat Australia, confidently enough, if not quite as convincingly as they usually do.

After losing to England the West Indians locked themselves into their dressing-room, not, according to Richards, for a crisis talk, but to sort a few things out. It was the third time in a row that England had beaten them (including the Benson and Hedges Challenge in Perth earlier this month) and that is something no side has done before in one-day cricket. West Indies are not in the best of moods at the moment or in the best of form and another defeat yesterday, by Australia, would have done them no good at all.

But Australia have failed to narrow the gap between themselves and the West Indians in the same way as they have with England. It is two years now since they beat West Indies and this has a lot to do, I think, with familiarity, or the lack of it. England know much better what they are up against with the West Indians than the Australians do.

West Indies yesterday were without Greenidge, who is out of sorts and out of luck with the umpires. Although this interrupted a successful and long-standing partnership between him and Haynes, it proved no handicap. After Haynes had been caught at the wicket in the fifth over Richardson and Gomes got the innings going in conditions that were not easy. It

was an overcast morning on which the ball moved about and humid and hot enough for Richardson to change his batting gloves every 20 minutes or so.

Richardson's running between the wickets, being full of push, they needed. When Gomes was bowled by Matthews's arm ball in the thirtieth over they were 110 for two, a platform, when Richards settled in, for something better than the 237 for five which they made.

Australia's bowlers did quite well, except when Richards was taking 28 off two of Taylor's overs. Logie was sent back by Richards and run out before he had had a ball and, although he hit one or two enormous strokes, Richards found the ground too large on which to destroy the Australians.

I had last seen the ball landed on the roof of the stand at square leg by Dexter in 1962-63. Sobers being the bowler, Richards now pulled Taylor there with a mighty blow. The biggest hit of the weekend, though, was by Harper off Reid in the last over of the West Indian innings, a pull that must have carried all of 110 yards.

As well as Richardson's running, the extras conceded by Australia were a factor at

the start of the game. West Indies, for their part, gave nothing away early in Australia's innings, although they were to err badly later on.

After 10 overs Australia were 20 for one. After 30 they were 94 for three. Jones having been leg-before to Garner just as he was getting under way and Border bowled between bat and pad by his third ball.

While Marsh and Waugh were together Australia were still in with a chance. They had added 72 in 12 overs and were gathering speed when Waugh spooned a full toss from Harper to mid-wicket. Matthews, O'Donnell and Taylor could manage nothing and Marsh was too tired by now to score the runs of two men. Before Waugh got out West Indies were getting rattled, and even when eventually they won, Richards walked off not quite as though the lark was on the wing and all was right with the world.

Perhaps he was still smouldering from West Indies' defeat by England by 89 runs the previous evening. It is such a good pitch on which all three games here are being played, or it was then, that England's total of 252 for six would probably have been insufficient against a normally confident West Indian team.

But Greenidge was out cheaply (not that he thought

so himself, to judge from his reaction to being leg-before to DeFreitas) and, once Richards had been gloriously caught on long on by Broad, West Indies threatened no more.

Broad's was only an example of the speed and spirit with which England fielded. Athey is proving an ace in the circle on the leg side, some 25 yards out in the direction of a straight mid-wicket. He held three good catches there in Sydney last Thursday and another splendid one on Saturday. The bowlers all field well, DeFreitas being the equal of anyone from the three sides in the competition, Dilley having a safe pair of hands in the deep and Emburey a good arm.

Broad won another man of the match award with an innings of 64 to go with his boundary catch. There were times during his opening partnership of 121 in 32 overs with Athey when I felt it would help if one of them got out, so as to bring in a heavy gun, but both men, promoted to No. 4, attempted too much too soon when the wickets did start to fall and in the end the 34 runs that Richards and Emburey made between them in 34 balls were welcome.

Australia v W Indies

(Adelaide, Saturday)

WEST INDIES	
D. L. Haynes c Zieffner b Davis	3
R. B. Richardson b Waugh	72
H. A. Gomes c Matthews	43
T. V. A. Richards c Davis b Waugh	184
A. Logie not out	12
R. P. J. Dixon not out	46
A. Harper not out	12
Extras (b 3, lb 15, w 7)	25
Total (5 wickets, 50 overs)	237
AUSTRALIA	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-110, 3-104, 4-184, 5-221	
BOWLING: Davis 8-4-21-1, Field 10-0-43-0, Waugh 7-0-41-2, Matthews 10-0-34-1, O'Donnell 7-0-41-2, Taylor 8-0-45-0	
AUSTRALIA: 221 for 5 (50 overs; 6 R Marsh 54)	

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	Pts	Rate
England	4	3	2	6	4.50
W Indies	4	3	2	6	3.71
Australia	4	1	3	2	4.48

If points level after each side has played eight matches, run-rates will determine finalists.

Oxford move to quell mutiny

By Jim Raiton

Oxford University yesterday attempted to quell their Boat Race mutiny by sacking Chris Clark, one of five Americans in their 28-man squad.

After a crisis meeting of the University Boat Club at Leander Club, Henley, lasting almost five hours, the president, Donald MacDonald, appeared to have regained control.

There has been a rebellion within the American ranks over selection of the crew for the Boat Race on March 28. The meeting was chaired by the 1966 Blue Richard Fishlock. Ronnie Howard (the chairman of the President's Advisory Committee) also attended. Afterwards MacDonald issued the following statement:

"I made it clear that I have invited my team of coaches, under the leadership of Dan Tapolski to select the crew, and this would not be conditional on the president being in the crew or even party to the selection. The meeting fully endorsed the policy today."

"The coaches discussed the merits of those under selection and came to the conclusion that since Chris Clark had failed to honour the demands they had made on him on a number of occasions, he will not be invited to continue training with the OUBC squad."

"As a result of today's meeting Monday's crew will be as follows: A Ward (bow), D MacDonald, T Cadogan-Hudson, G Stewart, D Lyons, C Penny, R Hall, C Huntington (stroke), J Fish (cox)."

Clark, of Berkeley University, California, rowed in last year's losing Oxford crew and was a prime mover in bringing to Oxford top American rowers, including Olympic world and Pan-American medal winners.

It remains to be seen how the talented American contingent react to the president's statement. But I cannot see the Oxford establishment giving way, despite the fact that it took almost five hours of debate and there perhaps lies a slight weakness.

Paradoxically, Ronnie Howard, who was at yesterday's meeting, put down the last American crew rebellion in the Oxford ranks in 1959 when he was president and Oxford went on to win the Boat Race by six lengths. The Americans - Clark, Dan Lyons, John Fish, Chris Penny and Chris Huntington - are said to be unhappy with the composition of the crew.

RUGBY UNION

RFU deny ticket allegations

By David Hands

Rugby Football Union officials denied yesterday any knowledge of allegations that tickets for the Calcutta Cup match allocated to players had ended in the hands of an entrepreneur.

The allegation sprang from a BBC radio report hinting that players may have sold tickets to an outside agency. Though the report did not say so, the details are supposed to have come to light when tickets known to have been part of the players' allocation were checked with Twickenham as being valid for April 4, the new date of the game which was postponed on January 17.

"There has been a lot of speculation about tickets being sold by players," Michael Weston, chairman of selectors, said. "We have talked to players about it and so far as I am concerned, if anyone can prove it has happened, then action will be taken." Members of England's playing squad were advised over the weekend not to comment about the matter.

Successful England management figures have pressed in recent years for additional 'perks' for players whose allocation is now three free tickets per match with the option to buy ten more. Each ticket is numbered so their subsequent whereabouts can be checked back.

What players do with their tickets is entirely up to them; if, say, they chose to give several to their employer by way of a thank-you for time off work and their employer chooses to use them as a form of entertainment for clients, there is nothing to stop him doing so. What the RFU, quite naturally, would be averse to is tickets ending up on the black market.

Canon's jackpot

Jim Cannon, the Crystal Palace captain, received some consolation for the 1-0 home defeat by Burnley by winning £1,000 after being drawn the lucky winner in the club's weekly 'Lifetime' lottery.

Luton likely to be unchanged

Steve Foster and Peter Nicholas are expected to be fit after undergoing treatment for ankle injuries for tonight's FA Cup third round replay against Liverpool at Anfield. Luton have named a squad of 16, but are likely to retain the side which beat Leicester 1-0 on Saturday.

Luton travelled north last night, 24 hours before the kick-off, to avoid any repetition of their failure to arrive for the game when it was originally scheduled to have been played 12 days ago. John Docherty, the Millwall manager, has made one change to his club's FA Cup second replay with Cardiff. He recalls John Leslie for their ineligible Irish striker, Gerry Armstrong.

The Stoke City manager, Mick Mills, has named an unchanged side for the 12th successive game for their third round replay against Grimsby Town at the Victoria Ground. No injuries are reported from

saturday's 0-0 draw at Birmingham. Chris Hemming is named as a second substitute as Stoke aim to stretch their unbeaten run to 14 games.

Third Division Gillingham, who had to postpone their home game with Rotherham on Saturday, are confident about being able to stage today's Freight Rover Trophy tie with Colchester. Secretary Harold Rumsey said: "We have now virtually cleared the pitch of snow and our financial director Ron Welham was among those working on the ground this morning." Gillingham plan a 10am inspection, but Rumsey said: "We don't think there will be any problem."

Chris Woods is just six minutes away from breaking a British goalkeeping record after maintaining yet another clean sheet in Rangers' goalless draw with Aberdeen at Ibrox Park on Saturday.

Swindon keep up the chase

Swindon kept up their promotion challenge with a 3-0 victory over Newport yesterday. Quinn's opening goal was his first since rejoining the club from Blackburn.

The visitors' neat passing had the home defence in trouble early in the match, and Mardenborough forced a fine save from Digby. Barry hit the Swindon bar with a fierce 25-yard shot in the 55th minute, but Bamber, the substitute, came on to effect. He laid on Parkin's 71st minute goal, and went on to score the third himself.

Chesterfield's largest gate of the season - 4080 - saw them defeated 1-0 in the final minute when Mansfield made the most of a mistake by Jim Brown, the veteran goalkeeper.

Brown failed to cut out a left wing cross as the game drew towards its close, and Cassels was left to collect the loose ball and tap it into an open net.

TENNIS

Athletics coach to assist Becker

From Richard Evans, Melbourne

In a move not solely related to the departure of Günther Bosch, Britain's director of athletics coaching, Frank Dick, has agreed to help Boris Becker with his physical conditioning.

At a press conference following the final of the Australian open here, Becker's manager, Ion Tiriac, announced that he had reached an agreement with Dick and that the athletics coach would begin working with the Wimbledon champion for a 10-day period in Monte Carlo this week. The relationship is expected to continue on a basis of mutual convenience throughout the year.

"The idea of having someone like Dick help us became possible when Boris realized he needed assistance in this area after losing to Lendl in the Masters," Tiriac said. "Before that his mind was blocked to the idea. But after he moved so badly in the Masters, he came to me and said: 'OK, let's find someone'. So naturally we went after the best."

Earlier Becker, who had just returned to Melbourne after two days' holiday with his girl friend, confirmed that Bosch's decision had come as a surprise.

"We first spoke about the possibility of his becoming a part-time coach in Adelaide," Becker explained. "Then we mentioned it again here after I lost to Wally Masur and an hour later he came back to my room and told me he had decided to quit completely. I was very surprised."

With Dick now added to the Becker team, the problem of



Dick: agreement with Tiriac

finding a top-class coach to replace Bosch is next on the agenda.

Tiriac and Becker will be discussing it over the next few days and the names still uppermost on their shortlist remain those of Fred Stolle, who looked after Vitas Gerulaitis for several years, and Roy Emerson, the fellow-Australian to whom Stolle lost twice in Wimbledon finals.

Stolle, resident in Florida but here in Melbourne as a TV commentator, played tennis with Tiriac a couple of days ago but told me no approach had been made.

"Yes, I would be interested," Stolle said. "But it depends on how many weeks a year they would want me to spend with Boris."

Tiriac and Becker may yet differ on the answer to that question as the proper way to groom a young champion who has achieved so much so fast continues to be debated.

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SNOOKER

Higgins stages a popular recovery

By Sydney Friskin

Alex Higgins delighted his admirers by winning three frames in a row to defeat Terry Griffiths 5-4 in the first round of the Benson & Hedges Masters Tournament at Wembley yesterday afternoon.

The fate of the deciding frame hinged on the black ball which Griffiths unsuccessfully attempted to despatch into a corner pocket with the use of the rest. Higgins came in immediately to make a match-

winning break of 38, clearing the colours up to the pink.

The noisy crowd kept shouting encouragement to Higgins who asked them for quiet because of the money at stake after he had fallen 3-2 behind. Almost every stroke Higgins played was generously applauded. Breaks of 24 and 32 enabled him to build a sizeable lead in the first frame which Griffiths conceded but the Welshman won the next two frames before Higgins

squared the match.

After the interval Griffiths eventually settled the fifth frame. The turning point of a tightly fought sixth frame was the loss of four points by Higgins who knocked the yellow off the table. Griffiths going on to win with a yellow to pink clearance. Higgins won the next two frames to set up the final showdown.

FIRST ROUND: A Higgins (60) vs T Griffiths (Welsh) 5-4. Frame scores (Higgins first): 63-25, 15-81, 35-74, 118-0, 38-52, 53-58, 51-13, 83-07, 81-02.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Trouble brews

Mark Foster, who is fast developing an unfortunate reputation as the "bad boy" of British swimming, is in hot water again. The 16-year-old from Southend has been suspended from the Yorkshire Bank England squad along with Jonathan Broughton (City of Leeds) after alleged misconduct during a recent training camp in the United States.

The pair, currently two of England's most exciting performers, have been reported to the Great Britain Swimming Federation and the Amateur Swimming Association by Gerry Thayne, who was the team manager of a 24-strong British squad which spent 10 days training in Florida earlier this month.

Hobbs out

Auckland, Anne Hobbs, the defending champion, has withdrawn from the £38,500 New Zealand international women's tennis tournament which starts today. The 22-year-old seventh seed, withdrew through injury and is replaced by Andrea Holikova, of Czechoslovakia.

Pocket money

Steve Davis continued his remarkable run of success when he outplayed teenager Stephen Hendry 6-3 on the final night of the six match Challenge Tour of Scotland. That victory, made it a 6-0 whitewash for the world No.1 and meant that he had pocketed all the £30,000 prize money at stake.

Davis was in superb form as he recorded consecutive big breaks with a best of the series score of 136 in the eighth frame.

Germans top

West German riders dominated the world cyclo-cross championships at the weekend, with the professional Klaus-Peter Thaler and the amateur Mike Kluge regaining the titles they last won in 1985.

Steve Douce, the British champion, started well and was eighth after the first of the 10 laps, but he steadily lost ground and was finally beaten into 13th place in a sprint finish with Ivan Messelis of Belgium.

Essex swoop

Monte Lynch could become the third new player to join Essex, the county champions, during the winter. Doug Insole, the Essex chairman, said yesterday: "Lynch is now out of contract with Surrey and discussions are taking place with the possibility of him joining us." Lynch, aged 28, has been one of Surrey's most consistent batsmen during the last few summers.

Essex have recently signed Hugh Page, the South African fast bowler and Derbyshire off spinner Geoff Miller.

Foldvari wins

Robby Foldvari, the world billiards champion collapsed during his quarter-final match in the PM Sports UK championship at Stockport. Foldvari, from Australia, who had earlier complained that he was suffering from the effects of flu during a marathon six-hour final session against former world champion Fred Davis, went on to reach the semi-finals with a 400-341 victory.

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